



Republican presidential candidate, Herman Cain speaks during a campaign rally, Wednesday, Nov. 30, 2011, in Columbus, Ohio.
(AP Photo/Jay LaPrete)

Plowing Ahead

DAYTON, Ohio (AP) — Republican presidential contender Herman Cain plowed ahead Wednesday amid mounting allegations of sexual misconduct including an extramarital affair. But he acknowledged the toll was rising and said he would decide by next week whether to drop out of the Republican race.

Cain spent a month battling several sexual harassment accusations, which took a toll on both his standing in polls and, supporters say, his fundraising. The latest furor came Monday when businesswoman Ginger White, 46, said she and Cain had maintained a consensual sexual relationship spanning more than a decade and ending this year before he became a candidate.

Prominent conservatives who rushed to his defense when the first allegations of inappropriate sexual behavior surfaced were all but silent after the affair accusation.

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Britain orders Iran's diplomats to leave UK

British police officers stand guard outside the Iranian Embassy in London, Wednesday, Nov. 30, 2011. Britain's foreign secretary on Wednesday ordered all Iranian diplomats out of the U.K. within 48 hours following attacks on the British embassy and a residential compound in Tehran.

(AP Photo/Kirsty Wigglesworth)
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Britain orders Iran's diplomats to leave UK

Continued from front

DAVID STRINGER
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Britain ordered all Iranian diplomats out of the U.K. within 48 hours and shuttered its ransacked embassy in Tehran on Wednesday, in a significant escalation of tensions between Iran and the West.

The ouster of the entire Iranian diplomatic corps deepens Iran's international isolation amid growing suspicions over its nuclear program. At least four other European countries also moved to reduce diplomatic contacts with Iran. The British measures were

Embassy in 1979. Protesters replaced the British flag with a banner in the name of a 7th-century Shiite saint, Imam Hussein, and one looter showed off a picture of Queen Elizabeth II apparently taken off a wall.

"The idea that the Iranian authorities could not have protected our embassy or that this assault could have taken place without some degree of regime consent is fanciful," Hague told lawmakers in the House of Commons.

The diplomatic fallout from the attack quickly spread to other Western countries with embassies in Iran. Norway announced it was

said the U.S. backed Britain's ejection of Iranian diplomats.

European Union foreign ministers were to meet Thursday to consider possible new sanctions against Tehran.

France's budget minister, Valerie Pécresse, said the EU should consider a total embargo on Iranian oil or a freeze on Iranian central bank holdings. British officials said the U.K. would likely support new measures against Iran's energy sector.

Hague claimed those involved in Tuesday's attack were members of a student group allied with the Irani-



Members of the Iranian armed forces along with other people carry a flag draped coffin of an Iranian soldier who was killed during 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war, whose remains has been recently recovered, during his funeral ceremony, in Tehran, Iran, Wednesday, Nov. 30, 2011.

(AP Photo)

announced by Foreign Secretary William Hague, who said Britain had withdrawn its entire diplomatic staff after angry mobs stormed the British Embassy compound and a diplomatic residence in Tehran, hauling down Union Jack flags, torching a vehicle and tossing looted documents through windows. The hours-long assault Tuesday was reminiscent of the chaotic seizure of the U.S.

temporarily closing its embassy as a precaution, and Germany, France and the Netherlands all recalled their ambassadors for consultations. Italy said it was considering such a recall. Iran currently has 18 diplomats in Britain. About 24 British Embassy staff and dependents were based in Tehran.

The White House condemned the attacks and spokesman Josh Earnest

an Revolutionary Guard's paramilitary Basij organization, which recruits heavily on university campuses.

"We should be clear from the outset that this is an organization controlled by elements of the Iranian regime," he said.

Hague told Parliament the private quarters of staff and Britain's ambassador were trashed in the attack and that diplomats' personal possessions were stolen. □

Cain plows ahead amid sexual allegations

Continued from front

The turmoil comes just five weeks before the first votes are cast in the state-by-state march to the nomination.

Former House Speaker Gingrich has been the beneficiary — in polls, at least —

al speaker were moving ahead with plans for events around the country and prepared to launch a fresh round of TV ads in Iowa, where the first state contest on the road to the nomination will be held Jan. 3.

Cain, on a one-day bus tour of Ohio, insisted he was



Republican presidential candidate Herman Cain speaks during his first stop of an Ohio bus tour at the Cincinnati Marriott North in West Chester, Ohio, Wednesday, Nov. 30, 2011. Cain claimed Wednesday that he has experienced a "groundswell of positive support" from backers who are ignoring the most recent charge of a 13-year extramarital affair.

(AP Photo/The Enquirer, Tony Jones)

of Cain's slide in the month since it was disclosed that the National Restaurant Association paid settlements to two women who claimed Cain sexually harassed them while he was president of the organization. A third woman told The Associated Press that Cain made inappropriate sexual advances but that she didn't file a complaint. A fourth woman also stepped forward to accuse Cain of groping her in a car in 1997. Cain said Wednesday that he would exit the race if the latest allegations proved too damaging and he would make a decision by the middle of next week at the latest. He has denied all wrongdoing. But for now the campaign is continuing. Aides to the ex-restaurant executive, lobbyist and motivation-

seeing "a groundswell of positive support" after the latest allegation threatening his campaign. Still, he acknowledged "we are reassessing and we are re-evaluating" in light of the latest accuser's account, which followed accusations of sexual harassment by other women in recent weeks. In an interview on Fox News late Wednesday, Cain said the controversy has taken an "emotional toll" on his wife, Gloria.

"I've got to think about my family first, especially my wife," Cain said. "This is why we are reassessing." At his campaign stops, he renewed what has become a familiar defense: that he is the victim of attacks by liberals and the establishment, who are threatened by his outsider appeal. □

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Police in L.A. and Philly break up “Occupy” camps

JENNIFER MEDINA

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Ian Lovett contributed reporting from Los Angeles, Marc Lacey from Phoenix and Timothy Williams from New York.

LOS ANGELES – The police broke up large Occupy encampments in Los Angeles and Philadelphia early Wednesday, arresting hundreds of protesters who had been camped out for the past two months and who had remained in public squares beyond city-mandated deadlines this week.

Around 12:30 a.m. in Los

some times squalid – camp of several hundred tents, Mayor Antonio R. Villaraigosa told reporters that he was proud of the way the police had performed, in particular, by employing force only as a last resort.

“I said that here in L.A. we’d chart a different path, and we did,” he said. “In my life, I have never seen a more professional, restrained police force.”

The police department, with a longstanding reputation for its use of aggressive tactics, said there had been only two episodes that had involved “minor

people with batons.

In Phoenix, police clad in riot gear twice used pepper spray Wednesday morning to disperse protesters gathered outside an upscale resort. The Occupy Phoenix protesters moved from the downtown park where they have been camp-

lines, prompting the use of pepper spray.

“The pepper spray is very effective in dispersing those who are being aggressive, and that is what happened here,” Crump said.

But protesters, many holding signs decrying the influence of money in politics,

city-imposed deadline for the protesters to leave. A police spokeswoman said that at least 50 people had been arrested and that three officers had sustained minor injuries.

City officials, which until the past week or so had a cordial relationship with the



Protesters at the Occupy LA camp and the Occupy Philadelphia Camp await their eviction. (Jessica Kourkounis/The New York Times)

Angeles, scores of police officers raided the Occupy camp that had been set up in a park outside City Hall, leading most of the protesters to scramble from their tents and gather in large groups in the surrounding streets.

By the time the raid ended several hours later, the police had arrested about 300 people. Most were cited for failure to disperse.

After much of the park had been cleared of what had grown into a colorful – if

force” and that the protesters had handled themselves admirably.

Some 1,400 officers had been called in for the operation, more than for any event since the Democratic National Convention in 2000, the authorities said.

But while the police and city officials said the raid had been conducted as peacefully as possible, some protesters said they had watched officers throw demonstrators to the ground and beat back

ing for weeks to the Westin Kierland Resort and Spa, where an annual meeting of the American Legislative Exchange Council brought together lawmakers and corporate executives.

As of midday, seven protesters had been arrested outside the hotel on charges ranging from criminal trespass to aggravated assault on an officer. Sgt. Trent Crump, a police spokesman, said a small group of “anarchists” dressed in black had charged police

said it was the police who overreacted.

“I think it’s very unfortunate when the police think they have to support the 1 percent when they are part of the 99 percent,” said Joyce Smith, a retired teacher who has been active in the Occupy movement.

On Wednesday in Philadelphia, police officers raided the city’s nearly two-month-old encampment at Dilworth Plaza, adjacent to City Hall, at about 1 a.m. – more than two days after a

demonstrators – even supplying them with electricity – said they wanted them to move so that the city could embark on a long-planned construction project at the plaza.

As was the case in Los Angeles, once officers arrived in force Wednesday, the protesters took to the streets. The police trailed them for hours, seeking to avoid confrontations, but eventually called in mounted units to help cordon off demonstrators. □

Stars aligning for Gingrich candidacy

STEVEN R. HURST
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Smart debate performances, conservative distrust of Mitt Romney and the exploding candidacy of Herman Cain have carried Newt Gingrich to the top of the heap in the crowded field of eight Republicans battling for the nomination to challenge President Barack Obama for his job next year.

In a year of startling shifts in political fortunes among Republican candidates, the rise of Gingrich is perhaps the most surprising. He has engineered a political reinvention that has put him in contention for the presidency despite a troubled history that includes his resignation as speaker of the House of Representatives under a cloud of ethics violations 13 years ago.

Gingrich is thrice married and has admitted infidelities, including an extramarital affair conducted even as he was leading the impeachment effort against former President Bill Clinton for lying about his sexual dalliance with a junior White House staffer.

Interestingly, Cain's campaign is imploding over similar issues of sexual misconduct. That leaves Gingrich, ironically, in a position to harvest deserting Cain supporters.

After the 1994 election, Gingrich became the first



Republican presidential candidate, former House Speaker Newt Gingrich speaks at Tommy's Ham House, Wednesday, Nov. 30, 2011, in Greenville, S.C.

(AP Photo/ Richard Shiro)

Republican speaker of the House in 40 years when the party swept back into power in the lower chamber of Congress, partially on his message of a "Contract with America." But during the next half decade Gingrich became embroiled in ethics controversies and lost favor even with his own party over his brutal political tactics. He resigned as speaker in 1998 and left Congress a year later.

While the Obama re-election team still seems focused on Romney, Gingrich has rapidly overtaken the patrician former Massachusetts governor and venture capitalist. Romney has been unable to entice the

conservative Republican base to his candidacy; they view him as too moderate cannot excuse his reputation for changing positions on important issues to gain support from an increasingly conservative Republican electorate.

But Gingrich himself is far from a paragon of Republican ideological consistency or purity.

Within days of announcing his candidacy last May, Gingrich angered conservatives by harshly criticizing Rep. Paul Ryan's plan to remake Medicare, the government's health insurance for the elderly, as "right-wing social engineering." Gingrich apologized but

has since sent mixed signals on where he stands on the matter.

He also has wavered on the NATO intervention in Libya, initially criticizing Obama for not having taken action and later saying he would not have used American and European forces there. He also has sent mixed signals on his view of the government's role in requiring Americans to buy health insurance.

That will make it harder for him to confront Romney on an issue where he is vulnerable for having pushed through a requirement that people buy insurance when he was Massachusetts governor. □



A group that wants porn actors to wear condoms during film shoots said Wednesday it has gathered more than 64,000 valid voter signatures to put the issue on the ballot in Los Angeles — about 23,000 more than the law requires.

US group wants condoms for all porn shoots

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A group that wants porn actors to wear condoms during film shoots said Wednesday it has gathered more than 64,000 valid voter signatures to put the issue on the ballot in Los Angeles — about 23,000 more than the law requires.

The city's San Fernando Valley is the heart of the multibillion-dollar U.S. porn industry.

The AIDS Healthcare Foundation has made a number of unsuccessful efforts — through state legislation, lawsuits and complaints to regulators — to require condoms in adult films.

"We believe these performers deserve the health and safety protections already afforded them under existing law, and that all levels of government need to be involved in this workplace safety issue," foundation President Michael Weinstein said.

To get on the city's ballot in June, advocates must turn in 41,183 signatures. If passed, the measure would require porn producers to agree to have their actors use condoms in adult films shot in Los Angeles in order to obtain permits to film in the city. Critics say the measure's obvious flaw is that many porn producers don't seek such permits in the first place, and those who do would likely be forced underground. □

Feds find 32 tons of pot in US border tunnel

ELLIOT SPAGAT
Associated Press

SAN DIEGO (AP) — The discovery of a cross-border tunnel equipped with electric rail cars, a hydraulic lift and end-to-end wood floors has ended in seizures of more than 32 tons of marijuana, one of the largest pot busts in U.S. history, authorities said Wednesday.

Tuesday's seizure ranks as the second-largest pot bust in U.S. history if the drugs found on the Mexican side of the tunnel are counted and the third-largest with-

out the Mexican cache, according to the DEA. It is the largest seizure ever linked to a tunnel.

The latest secret passage on the U.S.-Mexico border highlights an emerging seasonal trend. For three years, authorities have found sophisticated tunnels shortly before the winter holidays in what officials speculate is an attempt by drug smugglers to take advantage of Mexico's fall marijuana harvest. The discovery of the 600-yard (550-meter) tunnel resulted in seizures of 32 tons of marijuana, one of the

largest pot busts in U.S. history. It linked warehouses in San Diego and Tijuana and was equipped with lighting and ventilation. Wooden planks lined the floor about 40 feet (12 meters) underground.

"This is an incredibly efficient tunnel designed to move a lot of narcotics," said Derek Benner, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's special agent in charge of investigations in San Diego said Wednesday. Authorities recovered nearly 17 tons of marijuana at the warehouse in San

Diego's Otay Mesa area, nearly 12 tons inside a truck in Los Angeles and about 4 tons in Mexico. Six people were charged in federal court in Southern California with conspiracy to distribute marijuana.

As U.S. authorities heighten enforcement on land, tunnels have become a major tack to smuggle enormous loads of marijuana. More than 70 passages have been found on the border since October 2008, surpassing the number of discoveries in the previous six years. □

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Church votes against interracial couples

DYLAN LOVAN
Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Kentucky (AP)

— A tiny all-white church in the rural South has voted to ban interracial couples from joining its flock, pitting members against each other in an argument over race. Members at the Gulnare Free Will Baptist Church in Kentucky voted Sunday on the resolution, which says the church “does not condone interracial marriage.” The church member who crafted the resolution, Melvin Thompson, said he is not racist and called the matter an “internal affair.” “I am not racist. I will tell you that. I am not prejudiced against any race of people, have never in my lifetime spoke evil about a race,” said Thompson, the church’s former pastor who stepped down

earlier this year. “That’s what this is being portrayed as, but it is not.”

Church secretary Dean Harville disagrees: He says the resolution came after his daughter visited the church this summer with her boyfriend from Africa.

Stella Harville and Ticha Chikuni — now her fiancé — visited the church in June and Chikuni sang a song for the congregation. The two had visited the church before. Dean Harville, the church’s secretary, said he was counting the church offering after a service in early August when he was approached by Thompson, who told him Harville’s daughter and her boyfriend were no longer allowed to sing at the church.

“If he’s not racist, what is this?” Harville said of Thompson. □

Former sheriff accused of offering meth for sex

STEVEN K. PAULSON

Associated Press

CENTENNIAL, Colorado (AP) — The former sheriff was known for his no-nonsense style, his heroism in saving two deputies and for his concern about teenage drug use. He was even named the nation’s sheriff of the year.

Patrick Sullivan, 68, found himself on Wednesday in a jail that was named for him, facing charges of offering methamphetamine in exchange for sex from a male acquaintance.

Dressed in an orange jail uniform and walking with a cane, a handcuffed Sullivan watched as a judge raised his bail amount to a half-million dollars and sent him to the Patrick J. Sullivan Jr. Detention Facility.

Sullivan’s arrest has many in suburban Denver’s Arapahoe County where he held sway for nearly two decades wondering what happened to the tough-as-nails lawman they once knew. “This isn’t the Pat I know,” said Peg Ackerman, a lobbyist for the County Sheriffs of Colorado who often worked with him on legislation. She said he was concerned about drug use in schools and was a chief of security at a school district. □

1st US coach abuse lawsuit comes from new accuser

MARYCLAIRE DALE

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA (AP)

— A former Penn State assistant football coach sexually abused a boy more than 100 times, and threatened to harm his family to keep him quiet, according to a lawsuit filed Wednesday by a new accuser who is not part of the criminal case.

The 29-year-old, identified only as John Doe, had never told anyone about the abuse he claims he suffered until Jerry Sandusky was charged this month with abusing other boys. His lawyer said he filed a complaint with law enforcement on Tuesday. He became the first plaintiff to file suit in the Penn State child sex abuse scandal a day later.

Sandusky has acknowledged that he showered with boys but denied molesting them. His lawyer did not immediately return a message about the lawsuit. The lawsuit claims Sandusky abused the boy from 1992, when the boy was 10, until 1996 in encounters at the coach’s State College home, in a Penn State locker room and on trips, including to a bowl game. The account echoes a grand jury’s description of trips, gifts and attention lavished on other boys.

“I am hurting and have been for a long time because of what happened, but feel now even more tormented that I have learned of so many other kids were abused after me,” the plaintiff said in a handwritten statement his lawyer read aloud at a news conference.



Tammy Lerner, left, with the Foundation to Abolish Child Sex Abuse, makes remarks as attorney Jeff Anderson, right, looks on during a news conference Wednesday, Nov. 30, 2011, in Philadelphia. Former Penn State assistant football coach Jerry Sandusky sexually abused a boy more than 100 times, then threatened his family to keep him quiet about the encounters, according to a lawsuit filed Wednesday that details new accusations not included in criminal charges against Sandusky.

(AP Photo/Matt Rourke)

College football in the U.S. is highly popular. The scandal has shaken the reputation of Penn State’s program — one that long had prided itself on integrity in an environment where the profits of endorsements and television deals have led some schools to compromise academics and the law itself. The lawsuit seeks tens of thousands of dollars and names Sandusky, the university and Sandusky’s The Second Mile charity as defendants. The man says he knew the coach through the charity, which Sandusky founded in 1977, ostensibly to help disadvantaged children in central Pennsylvania.

The man was not referenced in the grand jury report that charges Sandusky with abusing eight boys over a 15-year period. His lawyer, Jeff Anderson, said he believes Sandusky was a predator who could

not control his sexual impulses toward children. He harshly criticized officials at Penn State and The Second Mile who failed to report their suspicions and put a stop to any abuse.

“We need to address the institutional recklessness and failures,” said Anderson, who specializes in clergy sex abuse lawsuits. “Was it because of power, money, fear, loyalty, lack of education?”

The university said it had not seen the complaint.

The charity said it would respond after reviewing the lawsuit but added: “The Second Mile will adhere to its legal responsibilities throughout this process. As always, our thoughts and prayers are with the victims and their families.”

Anderson suggested that it ended four years later because Sandusky was not sexually interested in older teens. □

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Police: Child molester on the run rescues US teen

STEPHANIE REITZ
Associated Press

HARTFORD, Connecticut (AP) — A jogger who saved a suicidal teenager from drowning herself in a U.S. lake was a convicted child molester on the run for six years, police said Wednesday. Michael Rogers, 49, said he could not bear to walk away and have the girl's death on his conscience, and police in Hamden, Connecticut said an officer involved in the rescue might have died without his help, too. Rogers was being held without bond Wednesday,

one day after he was arrested at his sister's home on a charge of being a fugitive from justice, police said. Georgia authorities said they planned to seek his extradition. Police say Rogers was convicted in 2001 of four counts of child molestation in Georgia but left the state in 2005 against terms of his probation. Details were not immediately available Wednesday about the Georgia crime. Police in Hamden said they first encountered Rogers on Sept. 2 when he pulled the despondent 16-year-old



Michael Rogers, of Hamden, who helped rescue a distraught youth along with a police officer. Police say Rogers, who saved a suicidal teenager from drowning herself in a Connecticut lake, was a convicted child molester on the lam from Georgia.
(AP Photo/New Haven Register, Peter Casolino)

from a murky lake and rescued a police officer who got stuck in deep muck during the rescue. Rogers, who identified himself to police as Michael Patrick, told the New Haven Register newspaper afterward that he was jogging

when he was flagged down by a crying staff member from a child therapy center who was beseeching the teenager to come back from the lake. He told the newspaper that he scaled the fence around the lake and restrained the

teen for more than five minutes until a police officer arrived and jumped in the deep muck to join the struggle. Patrick said it was an emotional encounter for everyone, and that the girl was begging him to let her go so she could die. At one point, police said, Rogers rescued the officer when he became submerged so deep in the muck that he could not pull himself out. Rogers eventually carried the 16-year-old to shore. The teenager was taken to a hospital and the officer was sent home for the day to tend to bruises and scrapes. "If I walked away, it would be on my conscience. I just couldn't walk away from that," Rogers told the Register, describing himself as an unemployed security sales consultant from Manhattan who was between jobs and spending time with his sister. □

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Feds: Mob recruited immigrants for clubs

NEW YORK (AP) — A mob-run ring that lured women from Russia and other Eastern European countries with the promise of waitressing jobs — only to send them to dance at New York strip clubs — was shut down Wednesday after 20 people were charged, including seven purported members of organized crime families, authorities said. Prosecutors said members of the Gambino and Bonnano organized crime families were swept up in arrests aimed at closing an operation that recruited the women and then arranged for many of them to enter into sham marriages with

U.S. citizens so they could stay in the country and continue to work as exotic dancers at adult entertainment clubs. Authorities say the four strip clubs in Queens and Long Island were controlled by the mob families, and their owners were forced to make payments in exchange for protection, which included the resolution of disputes among strip clubs over which dancers work where and over ownership interests in certain clubs. Homeland Security Investigations special-agent-in-charge James Hayes said the arrests "bring to an

end a long-standing criminal enterprise operated by colluding organized crime entities that profited wildly through a combination of extortion and fraud." He said the defendants used intimidation and threats of physical and economic harm to control their businesses and protect their turf. "Today, that business model has been extinguished," Hayes said. Charges in the case included racketeering, extortion, visa fraud, marriage fraud and transporting, harboring and inducing the entry of illegal aliens. □

Obama is facing a replay of hurdles in 'Hillary Country'

KATHARINE Q. SEELYE
© 2011 New York Times

SCRANTON, Pa. — It was trivia night at Kildare's bar here, and among the teams competing was a group of history teachers from Scranton High School. They easily won the round that tested their knowledge of U.S. presidents, including that the last one with facial hair was William Howard Taft.

But they were slightly stumped when a reporter asked them about their own preferences for president next year.

Brian Harrity, 33, who teaches world and early American history, said he had supported Hillary Rodham Clinton in the state's Democratic primary in 2008 over Barack Obama, and then Obama in November over the Republican, Sen. John McCain.

But during the last three years, Harrity said, Obama has not taken full advantage of the powers of the presidency to "get things done," which means, in Harrity's view, that he has not put the economy back on track or created more jobs.

"I'm heavily Democratic," Harrity said. "But if the right Republican came along, I would be open to voting for him."

This is a common refrain here in what is still called "Hillary Country," where Clinton's family roots run deep and 75 percent of Democratic primary voters backed her failed bid for the Democratic nomination in 2008.

It is also a sign of why recent polls show Obama in trouble here in northeast Pennsylvania and across the state. He is visiting here Wednesday, his first trip to Scranton since he became president.

The northeast is a swing, bellwether region in a state that suddenly seems in play. White, working-class voters, here and elsewhere, have been especially hard hit by the economic downturn. They have little loyalty to Obama and feel he has not lived up to his promise. Polls show that fewer than half the voters in Pennsylvania view Obama favorably and that he is losing support among independents and union households. It is too early for such polls to have



President Barack Obama meets with Patrick and Donna Festa in their home in Scranton, Pa., on Nov. 30, 2011. Obama is expected to speak at Scranton High School later today, where he will outline his plan to extend and expand a payroll tax cut for workers.

(Doug Mills/The New York Times)

much meaning, particularly before there is even a Republican nominee. But Obama's challenge in Pennsylvania, which has voted Democratic for president in the last five elections, is indicative of what he faces in states across the Rust Belt and could help determine the outcome of the presidential campaign. His flagging poll num-

bers suggest how much has changed from 2008. Obama won the state over McCain by 10 percentage points; here in Lackawanna County, where Scranton is the county seat, he beat McCain by 26 percentage points.

Pennsylvania's unemployment rate for October was 8.1 percent, lower than the national average of 9 per-

cent. But here, in this old coal mining region, the rate was 9.7 percent; the Scranton area has the highest unemployment in the state. The city is on the verge of losing 300 postal service jobs. The regional food bank served a record number of meals on Thanksgiving and has had a 25 percent increase in demand over the last year. □



Republican presidential candidate, Texas Gov. Rick Perry listens as he gets the endorsement of Maricopa County, Ariz. Sheriff Joe Arpaio during a campaign stop at Joey's Diner in Amherst, N.H.

(AP Photo/Jim Cole)

RICHARD A. OPPEL Jr.
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MANCHESTER, N.H. — Rick Perry is polling at only the single digits in New Hampshire, and the question on this Tuesday was: Can a hard-nosed Arizona sheriff who was sued by the Justice Department and is known for aggressive pur-

suit of illegal immigrants — and for making inmates wear pink underwear — help him gain traction six weeks before the primary?

Once atop the polls, Perry, the Texas governor, has sunk to second-tier status, a decline partly attributed, in addition to weak debate performances, to rivals'

Perry endorsed by Arizona sheriff Arpaio

painting him as soft on illegal immigration. That criticism has largely focused on his support of a plan that allows some children of illegal immigrants to qualify for in-state tuition at Texas public universities.

But at several appearances in New Hampshire on Tuesday, Sheriff Joe Arpaio of Maricopa County, Ariz., praised Perry as the best man in the Republican presidential race and the staunchest defender of the United States' southern boundary. He said Perry had demonstrated his credentials by deploying Texas Rangers and other law-enforcement agencies to stop illegal crossings at the Mexican border.

"He's out there right now," said Arpaio, who unabashedly calls himself the "toughest sheriff" in the country. "He's not just talking; he's doing the job. He

has a lot of resources that he sent to the border."

Arpaio's appearance highlighted how the immigration issue is again at the forefront of the Republican nominating fight. Newt Gingrich, now a front-runner in the field, warned his opponents Tuesday not to make an issue of his recent comments suggesting a softer approach on immigration, while in Florida, Mitt Romney promoted his endorsement by Cuban-Americans, one of whom expressed concerns about Romney's stance on the issue.

Arpaio, whose headquarters are in Phoenix, had been courted by Republican candidates including Herman Cain and Rep. Michele Bachmann. But he was far from the favorite of everyone in the crowd — at least those at the Perry campaign's third stop on Tuesday, at the New Hamp-

shire Institute of Politics at St. Anselm's College.

"Someone booing out there?" Arpaio, a Massachusetts native, asked as he took the microphone. "Yes," several people answered. "Uh, OK," he replied.

It was also clear that Perry and Arpaio did not know each other well. The sheriff said he had only just met the governor, though they had spoken on the phone before.

Perry, for his part, introduced him here by pronouncing his name "a-ROPP-eh-yay," which was not close. (It is are-PIE-oh.) "Sheriff Joe!" Perry quickly added.

Later, Perry made a minor gaffe by misstating the voting age, which is 18.

"Those of you that will be 21 by November the 12th, I ask for your support and your vote," he said, as some in the audience chuckled. □

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NATO:

Pakistan resumes some cooperation

ASHRAF KHAN
DEB RIECHMANN

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — Pakistan resumed some cooperation with U.S.-led forces in Afghanistan following NATO strikes that killed 24 Pakistani soldiers by working with the coalition to prevent another cross-border incident from escalating, a spokesman said Wednesday. The weekend airstrikes have severely strained the already troubled relationship between Pakistan and the U.S., jeopardizing Washington's hopes of enlisting Islamabad's support in winding down the Afghan war. Pakistan is still outraged by the soldiers' deaths and has



Supporters of Pakistan's ruling People's party chant anti-American slogans at a rally to condemn NATO strikes on Pakistan troops, in Karachi, Pakistan on Wednesday, Nov 30, 2011. Pakistan's prime minister said Wednesday he rejected a personal plea from the Afghan president to reconsider Islamabad's decision to boycott an upcoming international conference on Afghanistan over NATO airstrikes that killed 24 Pakistani troops.

(AP Photo / Shakil Adil)

retaliated by closing its Afghan border crossings to NATO supplies, demanding the U.S. vacate an air base used by American drones and boycotting

an international conference aimed at stabilizing Afghanistan. But NATO said Islamabad communicated with the alliance to prevent an exchange

of fire over the border late Tuesday from turning into another international incident. U.S. forces received mortar and recoilless rifle fire from an area just in-

side the Pakistan border, said U.S. spokesman Navy Lt. Cmdr. Brian Badura. U.S. forces returned fire in self-defense while confirming with the Pakistani military that it wasn't involved. No damage or casualties were reported by the U.S. or Pakistan, he said.

German Brig. Gen. Carsten Jacobson, a NATO spokesman in Kabul, expressed hope that Pakistan's cooperation in resolving the incident in eastern Afghanistan's Paktia province signaled the two sides could recover from the recent tragedy.

"We are continuing operations and it is of great importance that the incidents of Saturday, as tragic as they were, do not disrupt our capability to operate in the border area and cooperate with the Pakistani side," said Jacobson.

The Pakistani military did not immediately respond to request for comment on the latest incident.

Pakistani and American officials have offered different accounts of how NATO aircraft attacked two Pakistan army posts before dawn Saturday.

But it seems clear that a breakdown in communication contributed to the tragedy.

According to U.S. military records described to The Associated Press, the incident occurred when a joint U.S. and Afghan patrol requested backup after being hit by mortar and small arms fire by Taliban militants. □

Discontent grows with US at climate talks

ARTHUR MAX
Associated Press
DURBAN, South Africa (AP)

— Leading American environmentalists complained to Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton that her negotiators at U.N. climate talks risked portraying the U.S. as an obstacle to fighting global warming because of its perceived foot-dragging on key issues.

Separately, European delegates and the head of the African bloc at the 192-party talks on Wednesday also denounced U.S. positions at the talks, which are seeking ways to curb the ever-expanding emissions of heat-trapping greenhouse gases.

"Developed countries as



Women dance and sing as they gather to have their voices heard by governments and policy makers during the climate change conference taking place in Durban, South Africa, Wednesday, Nov 30, 2011. The U.N.'s top climate scientist cautioned climate negotiators Wednesday global warming is leading to human dangers and soaring financial costs, but containing carbon emissions will have a host of benefits.

(AP Photo/Schalk van Zuydam)

a whole are not taking climate change seriously as a global issue," Seyni Nafo,

of Mali, told The Associated Press. "Look at the U.S. We use and we welcome their

leadership on democracy, on access to markets, on human rights issues.

We would want to have the same leadership to tackle climate change, because for us in the developing world the biggest threat, the biggest enemy, is climate change.

"Discontent directed at Washington came as the U.N.'s top climate scientist, Rajendra Pachauri, warned the conference's 15,000 participants that global warming is leading to human dangers and soaring financial costs

— but that containing carbon emissions will have a host of benefits. □

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Opposition candidates call on Congo to annul vote

RUKMINI CALLIMACHI

Associated Press

KINSHASA, Congo (AP)

— For the past two days, Chantal Pande has set her alarm for 4:30 a.m., putting on her makeup and arriving before first light at the polling station where she's been assigned to vote in Congo's momentous election.

Each day she waited from dawn until dark, queuing at one of the 485 vote centers that as of Wednesday morning still hadn't received ballots in this giant nation attempting to organize its first election since the end of its civil war.

In Africa, it's difficult to pull off a transparent election even in countries that have held them regularly. This is only the third one in Congo's 51-year history. The country straddles the belly of the continent, stretching out over an area the size of the United States east of the Mississippi. Only 2 percent of its roads are paved.

Its polling stations are located on the flanks of mountains inhabited by gorillas; on the banks of rivers where the only mode of transport is by canoe; on islands in the middle of lakes; and deep in rain forests still controlled by rebel armies. The government missed nearly every deadline leading up to the election. It didn't print enough ballots. Those that were printed weren't delivered in time, forcing hundreds of polling stations to open late. Some didn't open at all, a combustible mix in a country whose back-to-back wars



Congolese voters line up to vote after presidential ballots arrived in opposition candidate Etienne Tshisekedi's stronghold district of Masina in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo, Wednesday Nov. 30, 2011, two days after the country went to the polls for presidential and parliamentary elections. The vote is only the second since the end of Congo's last war, and the first to be organized by the government instead of the international community. The election was supposed to mark another step toward peace, but if the results are not accepted by the population, especially the country's fractured opposition, analysts fear it could drag Congo back into conflict.

(AP Photo/Jerome Delay)

dragged in at least nine neighboring nations. choice and I want to express it. It's my right," said "I want to vote. I made my Pande, an unemployed

mother of four, who sat inside a deserted polling station clasping a yellow purse in which she had carefully folded her voting card. "I've been here every day since 5. I'm discouraged. I'm losing hope. Do you think they'll bring the ballots?"

Congo's body temperature is rising and already three of the 11 presidential candidates have called for the vote to be annulled. In pockets throughout the country, poll workers have been attacked, trucks transporting ballots have been ransacked and vote centers set on fire. Riot police fought back angry mobs with tear gas in the capital, including outside the cinderblock elementary school where Pande is registered. □

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Labor Party chief St. Lucia's new prime minister

GUY ELLIS

Associated Press

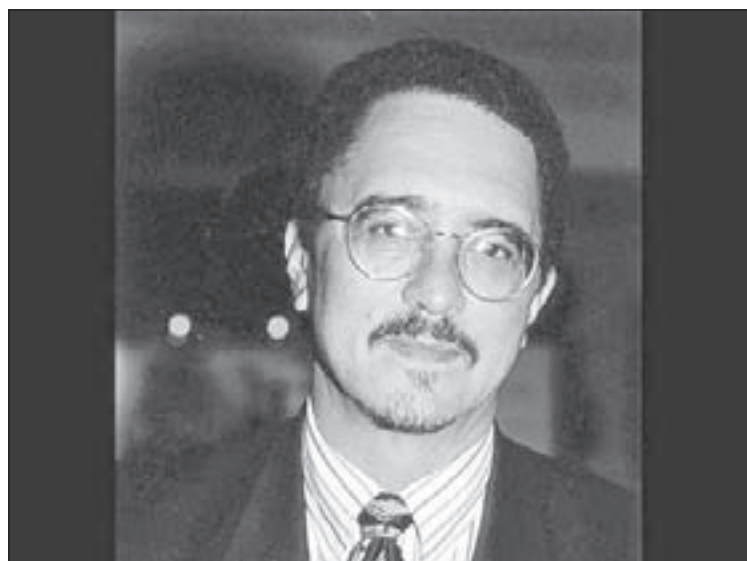
CASTRIES, St. Lucia (AP) —

The leader of St. Lucia's former main opposition party was sworn in as prime minister Wednesday, promising to strengthen the tourism-dependent Caribbean island's economy, reduce crime and improve prospects for young people. Kenny Anthony led the St. Lucia Labor Party to victory in Monday's parliamentary elections, winning a majority in the 17-member House of Assembly, according to nearly complete results released by the state-run Electoral Commission.

Electoral officials said Labor had won nine of the 15 seats declared so far, while the former governing United Workers Party held six. Two seats were still undecided.

Governor General Dame Pearlette Louisy swore in Anthony on Wednesday afternoon in front of party colleagues at her official residence.

The 60-year-old Anthony, who served as St. Lucia's prime minister from 1997 to 2006, said the road ahead will be "difficult and challenging" and he called for unity. "We have to do our



The leader of St. Lucia's former main opposition party, Kenny Anthony, was sworn in as prime minister Wednesday, promising to strengthen the tourism-dependent Caribbean island's economy, reduce crime and improve prospects for young people.

utmost to work together as a team, as one people, and always remember that the paramount consideration has to be at all times the best interest of the people of St. Lucia," he said.

Former Prime Minister Stephenson King, who assumed the top government post in September 2007 following the death of Prime Minister John Compton, has not made any public statements.

During the campaign, Anthony's party pledged to immediately undertake a major review of the island's foreign relations policy if it

won, something political analysts believe means a switch to renewed ties with China.

The issue has been a political football for years.

St. Lucia, with a population of roughly 170,000 people, had diplomatic relations with Taiwan for years under Compton. But after Compton's United Workers Party was defeated by the Labor Party in 1996, St. Lucia recognized China and dropped relations with Taiwan. Compton led his party back to power in 2006 elections and promptly re-established ties with Taiwan. □

Tensions rise in Guyana

BERT WILKINSON

Associated Press

GEORGETOWN, Guyana

(AP) — Tensions ran high in Guyana's capital on Wednesday as electoral officials slowly counted paper ballots two days after an apparently tight national election in the South American country.

Opposition parties alleged voting irregularities in various districts, while the governing People's Progressive Party claimed victory even though no partial returns had been announced.

The streets of the capital of Georgetown were largely empty after lunch Wednesday as many people went home, apparently worried about possible confrontations among competing street protests.

There was no obvious front-runner in Monday's presidential and parliamentary races because no independent opinion polls were conducted before the vote. Electoral commission chairman Steve Surujbally gathered the leaders of the contesting parties and coalitions Wednesday to assure them that the counting process "has not (been) compromised in any way, shape or form" and to appeal for calm.

Surujbally said the commission hoped to announce results soon, after double-checking and certifying votes.

The lack of even partial counts increasingly frustrat-

ed citizens, candidates and international observers.

"These delays can only undermine confidence in the electoral process and fuel speculation by interveners who may wish to take advantage of the situation," the observer mission for the Organization of American States state in a statement Wednesday.

Retired army commander David Granger, who leads the Partnership For National Unity coalition, warned that delays in announcing results could lead to an "imminent security crisis."

Granger and coalition partners met with the electoral commission warning it not to allow or condone "any secret swearing in" — a reference to 1997 when Janet Jagan was sworn in as Guyana's leader at a private ceremony, sparking rioting and looting by political opponents.

The campaign manager for the governing party, Agriculture Minister Robert Persaud, said his candidates were at a loss to know why the elections commission had not declared final results.

"We know we have won and they know it, too. We are not sure why they are not releasing the results," he told The Associated Press.

Persaud said he believed his party won about 53 percent of the votes, which would give it the presidency and control of the 65-seat parliament. □



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Iraq signals openness to return of U.S. troops as trainers

MARK LANDLER

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BAGHDAD — Iraq's prime minister signaled Wednesday that he was open to the eventual return of U.S. troops as trainers, underscoring the reality that the United States is likely to be involved in this country's security even after the last soldiers depart in the coming weeks.

"No doubt, the U.S. forces have a role in providing training of Iraqi forces," Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki said after meeting Vice President Joe Biden, who is here to mark the withdrawal and to inaugurate a new phase in relations between the United States and Iraq. Al-Maliki insisted that Iraq could provide for its internal security. And he made much of Iraq's desire to build a relationship with the United States as a sovereign country, dealing with Washington on the basis of national interest and "mutual respect."

But his comments suggested that for all the solemn pageantry of a war's ending, there is likely to be considerable continuity in the security relationship between the United States and Iraq, as it struggles to contain terrorist attacks by insurgent groups.

The inability of the United States and Iraq to agree on legal immunity for U.S. troops led to President Barack Obama's announcement in October that the last soldiers would leave the country by the end of the year.

But administration officials have suggested that once the withdrawal is complete — a politically significant milestone in both the United States and Iraq — the two sides could negotiate the return of U.S. troops to the country for training purposes. Biden on Wednesday reaffirmed that the two countries would maintain a "robust security relationship," adding that it was up to the Iraqis to decide "what you think that relationship should be."

"We will continue our discussions with your government over the substance of our security arrangements,



Followers of anti-American Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr demonstrate against the visit of U.S. Vice President Joe Biden in Baghdad, Iraq, Wednesday, Nov. 30, 2011. Vice President Joe Biden said Wednesday that his trip to Baghdad ahead of the U.S. military pullout marks a new beginning between Iraq and the United States, but already protests in Iraq against his visit are demonstrating the difficulties the relationship will face.

(AP Photo/ Karim Kadim)

including areas of training, intelligence and counter-terrorism," he said.

One area of lingering concern is the role of Iran in fomenting attacks on Americans. Biden told al-Maliki that he did not want "Iran to use our presence in Iraq as a target," said a senior administration official, who took part in the discussions. There are now only 13,000 soldiers left in Iraq, and their ranks are dwindling by 500 a day, though the United States will leave a vestigial force as liaison officers and to guard the embassy in Baghdad.

Biden cited the withdrawal as proof that the United States keeps its promises. And the administration was eager to keep the focus on departures rather than on potential future missions.

A senior administration official Wednesday emphasized that there were currently no discussions with Iraq about future deployments of U.S. troops.

With both countries eager to turn the page, much of the meeting time Wednesday was devoted to other concerns like trade, energy and agriculture investment, and educational exchanges. Biden spoke of U.S. companies investing in Iraq and Iraqis going to U.S. universities.

"We are embarking on a

new path together, a new phase in this relationship," he said, as he sat next to al-Maliki beneath twinkling

chandeliers at the governmental palace.

To underscore the emphasis on nonmilitary engage-

ment, Biden noted that his 15-member delegation included Jeffrey D. Feltman, an assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern affairs, and Dan Poneman, deputy secretary of energy.

Al-Maliki, who was flanked by members of his Cabinet and other officials, said he hoped that U.S. companies would pour into Iraq with the same vigor as U.S. troops once did.

But in a telling aside that appeared to speak to the magnitude of Iraq's challenges, al-Maliki and Biden seemed to speak past each other at one point.

Al-Maliki said, "We are looking forward to the future of Iraq, which is going to be built on the outcome of this meeting."

Biden, standing next to him, gently demurred, saying, "To suggest that the future of Iraq rests on our personal relationship, I think gives us too much credit." □

Italy judge, politician, cop nabbed in arrests

FRANCES D'EMILIO

Associated Press

ROME (AP) — A judge, politician, physician, lawyer and police official were among 10 suspects arrested Wednesday in a probe that Milan prosecutors said revealed the growing infiltration of the 'ndrangheta crime syndicate in broad sectors of Italian society.

Milan prosecutors said in a statement that the investigation was conducted jointly by anti-mafia authorities in Milan and Reggio Calabria, the southern region where the 'ndrangheta is rooted.

Last year, a major investigation that netted around 300 arrests showed that the 'ndrangheta wasn't just a southern association of crime clans, but rather a sophisticated organization that had infiltrated itself into politics and finance in Milan, Italy's business capital.

Among those arrested Wednesday was Giuseppe Giglio, a judge in the city of Reggio Calabria accused of corruption, revealing office secrets and aiding and abetting in circumstances aimed at helping mobsters,

prosecutors said.

Another judge, Giancarlo Giusti, based in Palmi, an 'ndrangheta stronghold, is being investigated for suspected corruption in carrying out judicial duties, but was not among those arrested, the prosecutors said. Charges on arrest warrants ranged from mafia association to using names of clean front-men on property documents, a key technique used by mobsters in money laundering. A top tax police official was arrested on suspicion of corruption. The prosecutors laid out their suspicions in a 810-page document that quoted extensively from intercepted phone conversations and argued that the 'ndrangheta's influence in society extends far and deep beyond its rural Calabrian roots.

"No environment remains extraneous to this work of contamination," wrote the investigating magistrate Giuseppe Gennari in the document ordering the arrests. In one of the conversations, one of those arrested for suspected mafia association, Giulio Lampada,

boasts that his son was baptized in the Vatican and that he was nominated for membership in an honorary society by the Vatican's No. 2 official, Secretary of State Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone. It is possible to be married or have children baptized at the Vatican upon recommendation from a local pastor. A Vatican spokesman said he wasn't able to immediately comment on the boast by the alleged mobster that he was made a member of the honorary society, established in the 19th century to honor lay people doing good works for the church or Catholic charities. Nomination for membership in various honorary societies pass through the secretary of state's office, but it wasn't immediately clear if the cardinal himself directly evaluates candidates. In other intercepted conversations, suspects boasted that they had met with prominent Italian local or regional politicians. One of those named, Lombardy Gov. Roberto Formigoni, called the assertions "a typical expression of a braggart." □

Ramen Rock Star: David Chang goes global

JOCELYN NOVECK

AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — David Chang knocks several times on an unmarked, street-level door in downtown Manhattan. Someone inside clearly recognizes the boss' knock, and the door opens quickly. The whole place is the size of a nice walk-in closet.

It could be the tiny galley kitchen of your typical Manhattan apartment — appliances, containers, a small chalkboard on the wall, a folding chair. Only this is the nucleus of a culinary empire: Chang's lab, where he ferments — literally, in some cases — ideas for his growing group of Momofuku restaurants.

Chang is not your typical celebrity chef. He has no television show, and most people outside the world of avid New York foodies would not have a clue who he was if they came across him on the street, an unassuming if intense-looking, 30-ish guy in a backward baseball cap.

But to those who worship the steamed pork buns at his Momofuku Noodle Bar or the rotisserie duck at momofuku ssam Bar, or compete in the fiendish online lottery for one of 12 seats at the high-end Momofuku Ko, Chang is a culinary deity: A man who at 34 already has won a slew of awards and two Michelin stars, been called a cultural demigod and compared to the top chefs of the world.

And now, only seven years after opening that first noodle bar in a former chicken wing joint the size of a one-car garage, Chang is going global.

He opened Momofuku Seiobo, his first eatery outside New York, late last month; he went all the way to Sydney, Australia to do it. Next year, a Toronto outpost opens as his sixth, not counting the four Momofuku Milk Bar bakeries run by his protegee, Christina Tosi. The second edition of his admired food quarterly, Lucky Peach, the English translation for the Japanese "momofuku", has just come out. He is still tinkering

with the iPad app.

And what does Chang say to all this, at the end of a long day, just back from Sydney and leaning against a wall to take the pressure off his aching knees? Just

the spot or the \$150 they charge if you do not show. Next to me is Rich Johnson, who's come in from suburban Yonkers, New York, after trying on and off for a year and a half. I

treatment. Not for VIPs, not for critics, not even family, he says. Really? "My sister came," Chang says. "She had to reserve online."

The Ko chefs, led by Chang's partner, Peter Serpico, seem to have things running so smoothly that it is hard to imagine Chang finding something to criticize. But he is famous for holding the staff at his restaurants to absurdly high standards — friends and colleagues argue that he is at least as hard on himself — so it is not surprising when, as we wander into Ko a few days earlier during our interview, he sees something he does not like. It is not the food, it is the cookbooks displayed on the counter. He has written one, of course, the 2010 "Momofuku" with co-author Peter Meehan, part memoir, part recipe book, peppered liberally with four-letter words and recipes that may involve pig's heads and blowtorches. And now there's "Momofuku Milk Bar," by Tosi, famous for cool ingredients like cereal milk, the sweet

tive) off of here," he says.

Clearly he does not mind that I'm standing there, as I had been earlier at the Noodle Bar, where he had found something in the kitchen he did not like and proceeded to delay a photo shoot for a good 10 minutes while he discussed it with staff. "We had to do that — I haven't been here in a while," Chang says. Later, referring to his famous temper, he explains: "I don't think I yell as much these days. There's better ways to go about it. But you're in a tough business. You might as well be the best. You either care or you don't care. If you're not trying to get better every day, what's the point?"

All this is part of what makes Chang special, says one of his champions, Dana Cowin, editor-in-chief of Food & Wine magazine.

"There's something to Dave's rabble-rouserness that's very much part of his aesthetic," says Cowin. "He's very out there. He doesn't hide who he is."

To stories of Chang chewing out some poor soul, Cowin



Chef David Chang is seen during an interview at Momofuku Noodle Bar in New York. Still only in his 30s, Chang, the son of Korean immigrants, has built a growing restaurant empire.

(AP Photo/Diane Bondareff)

last night, Jimmy Fallon called him a "rock star" on TV as he turned out a ramen dish with pecorino cheese and pepper. But right now he looks like a tired old man, too exhausted even to smile. "Be careful what you wish for," he says wanly. Among the truly hard-to-get commodities in Manhattan — a midtown parking space, a taxi in the rain, a ticket to "The Book of Mormon" — has long been a seat at Momofuku Ko, Chang's high-end eatery with only 12 seats and a tasting menu that runs to 16 courses at lunch (\$175), 10 at dinner (\$125).

And so, a few days after meeting Chang, my fingers tremble a bit as I log on to the restaurant's Web site at exactly 10 a.m., when seats open up six days in advance.

Dinner is not available, even with my most energetic clicking, but lunch is. I arrive early on the appointed day, determined not to lose



In this Thursday, Nov. 10, 2011 photo, chef David Chang prepares roasted rice cakes at Momofuku Noodle Bar in New York. Still only in his 30s, Chang, the son of Korean immigrants, has built a growing restaurant empire.

(AP Photo/Diane Bondareff)

feel ashamed that I got in so fast. But that's the democracy of the online system, and Chang enforces a strict policy of no special

stuff that remains once you finish your Fruity Pebbles.

Today, Chang thinks there are too many on the counter. "Let's get all this (exple-

responds by pointing out his loyalty to his staff and a desire to help them to the next level, like Tosi, now a name in her own right. □



U.S. man wins Aruba appeal in missing tourist case

ORANJESTAD, Aruba (AP) — A US businessman who spent nearly four months in an Aruban jail before a judge ordered his release scored another legal victory Wednesday when an appeals court rejected a prosecution appeal to put him back in pretrial detention.

Gary Giordano had already left Aruba when the three-judge appeals court panel ruled that prosecutors lacked sufficient evidence to continue holding him as a suspect in the disappearance and presumed death of his traveling companion, Robyn Gardner.

The prosecutor's office said it was disappointed with the ruling, still considers Giordano a suspect and



"While we believe the circumstances warranted his detention, we respect the

Prosecutors had said they intended to seek the extradition of the Giordano, a

only try to bring him back to the island and detain him if they intend to bring

"There are no more appeals," Lejuez said. "If they want him behind bars now they would have to start a court case against him. ... They have to charge him and take his case to court and they have years to do that."

The defense attorney said he expects the case will go no further.

"The truth is, as I showed the judges today, there is no evidence whatsoever against him, nothing, zero," he said. "So, I don't think this case will go to court."

Aruban law allows pretrial detention while authorities investigate a crime, but it is subject to a judge's review and the threshold of evidence necessary to hold someone increases as times goes on. A judge ruled last week that prosecutors had not met the requirement and ordered the release of Giordano. He had been in custody since Aug. 5, three days after reporting to police that Gardner disappeared while snorkeling. Her body has not been found.

The case has been compared to that of Alabama teenager Natalee Holloway, who disappeared on Aruba in May 2005 on the last night of her high school graduation trip to the island. Her body was also never found and the prime suspect was detained for months before he was eventually released for lack of evidence.

Authorities in Aruba now seem to face a similar situation, with only circumstantial evidence that a crime was even committed. The prosecutor's office said it would continue to press the case.



is continuing to pursue the case with the assistance of the FBI.

court's ruling," the prosecutor's office said in a statement.

50-year-old from Gaithersburg, Md., if they had won the appeal. Now, they can

the case to trial, said Chris Lejuez, his Aruban defense attorney.

Continued on Page 14

U.S. man

Continued on Page 13

"We understand that this will be very disappointing for the Gardner family. We sympathize with them," the office said in its statement. "They can rest assured that we are committed to pursuing this matter to its conclusion, and know our entire government shares that commitment.

We will leave no stone unturned in our determined efforts to solve this disappearance and, if the evidence warrants, we will bring the responsible person or persons to justice." Giordano,

a divorced owner of an employment services company, first drew suspicion with what investigators felt were inconsistencies in his account of Gardner's disappearance. Later, they learned he had taken out a \$1.5 million accidental death policy on her, which the prosecutor's office said was viewed as a possible



motive.

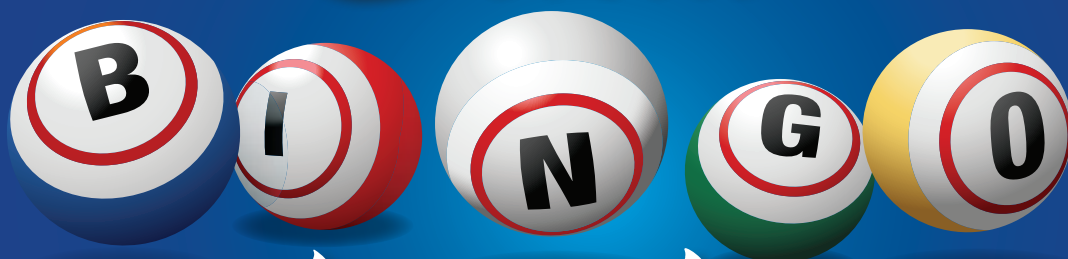
Gardner's friends and family also had doubts about her disappearance, saying it was unlikely the 35-year-old woman from Frederick, Md., would have gone snorkeling in the first place. Giordano was released from jail on Tuesday night and took the first flight to the U.S.

He flew to Miami and then headed to New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport in the company of his U.S. attorney, Jose Baez, who won an acquittal for Florida mother Casey Anthony in her murder trial earlier this year.

His immediate plans were unknown but his attorneys had said he was eager to rebuild his life and spend time with his family after nearly four months in jail.

He has denied any wrongdoing and said that Gardner was swept out to sea while they were snorkeling in the late afternoon Aug. 2 off the southern tip of Aruba. □

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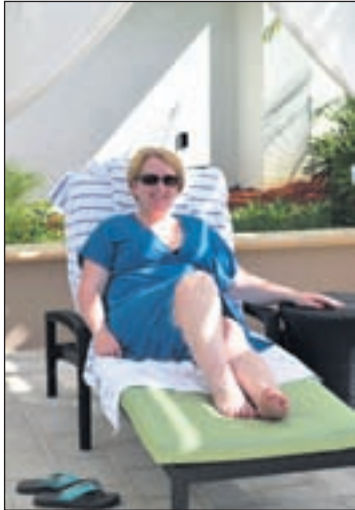
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It's Here, The New H2Oasis Adults - Only Pool

Now Guests of the Aruba Marriott Resort have access to exclusive Adult Pool



PALM BEACH – The Aruba Marriott Resort unveiled its newest amenity, the H2Oasis adults – only pool and lounge on November 21, 2011. The construction of this 10,000 square foot pool and lounge area began in June of this year and upon its completion, is the final zone of the resort's \$50 million dollar renovation.. H2Oasis is an area of the hotel that is reserved for mature guests staying at the



Aruba Marriott Resort and the boutique Tradewinds Club. While the resort still offers a great experience to guests of all generations, including families and children, with the free –form pool and all other areas that aren't zoned for adults. "We are very excited to open the pool and lounge area for our guests to experience," said Recreation Manager Gabriel Guevara, "The pool has only been open a few days and we have already received positive feedback. A few of

our guests described their experience as tranquil and relaxing."

"This is my second time staying at the Aruba Marriott and I am happy to see the new adult pool opening today. The cabanas and chairs are chic and comfortable – plus the pool looks amazing," said Kate Wilson, the first guest to experience the H2Oasis.

Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino boasts 411 guestrooms each with private balconies overlooking cascading waterfalls,

a free form swimming pool and tranquil Caribbean waters. Guest exclusivity is attainable on the eighth floor through the Tradewinds Club, a boutique, 'hotel-within-a-hotel' concept that is paired perfectly with the new adults-only pool and lounge area. On property dining options range from light to elegant with seven restaurants and cafes, while entertainment and relaxation can be achieved in the island's largest casino, or in the 6,500 square-foot spa. □

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best in the world.

The honorees are Mr. John and Mrs. Kathleen Trumpaitis, Mr. Willem Goedegebuure and Mr. Royal Kissing and his daughter Mrs. Pam Kissing they all received the Good Will Ambassador certificates and Mr. Ross and Mrs. Melinda Gubiotti received the Distinguished Visitor certificate. The symbolic honorary title is pre-

sented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 10 to 19 years and 20 or more consecutive years. The certificates were presented by Mr. Ernest Giel representing the Aruba Tourism Authority together with Mrs. Deborah Dintleman Resort Manager and Mr. Narshel Gibbs Front office Manager. □

Representing Aruba in Manila, Philippines Melissa Lacle is spectacular at Miss Earth 2011



ORANJESTAD - The New Star Promotion is proud to announce that Aruba's representative Miss Aruba 2005 Melissa Lacle is doing a beautiful job in Manila, Philippines in the international pageant Miss Earth 2011. She has already participated in the gala dress, bathing suit and national costume competitions of the event.



Her designer is a young local talent Sergio Winterdal who has launched his style internationally in a grand way.

A lot of eyes are on our Representative of the island of Aruba and she is at the top of the leagues of the 91 participants from around the world.

The final election will be held this weekend December 3rd. After 9 years of not participating, Aruba has re-



joined this event to win the Miss Earth 2011 crown with our representative Miss Melissa Lacle. □

SPORTS

Aruba TODAY



ESPN analyst Bobby Valentine speaks to reporters following his interview for the vacant Boston Red Sox manager position, at Fenway Park in Boston on Monday, Nov. 21, 2011.

Associated Press

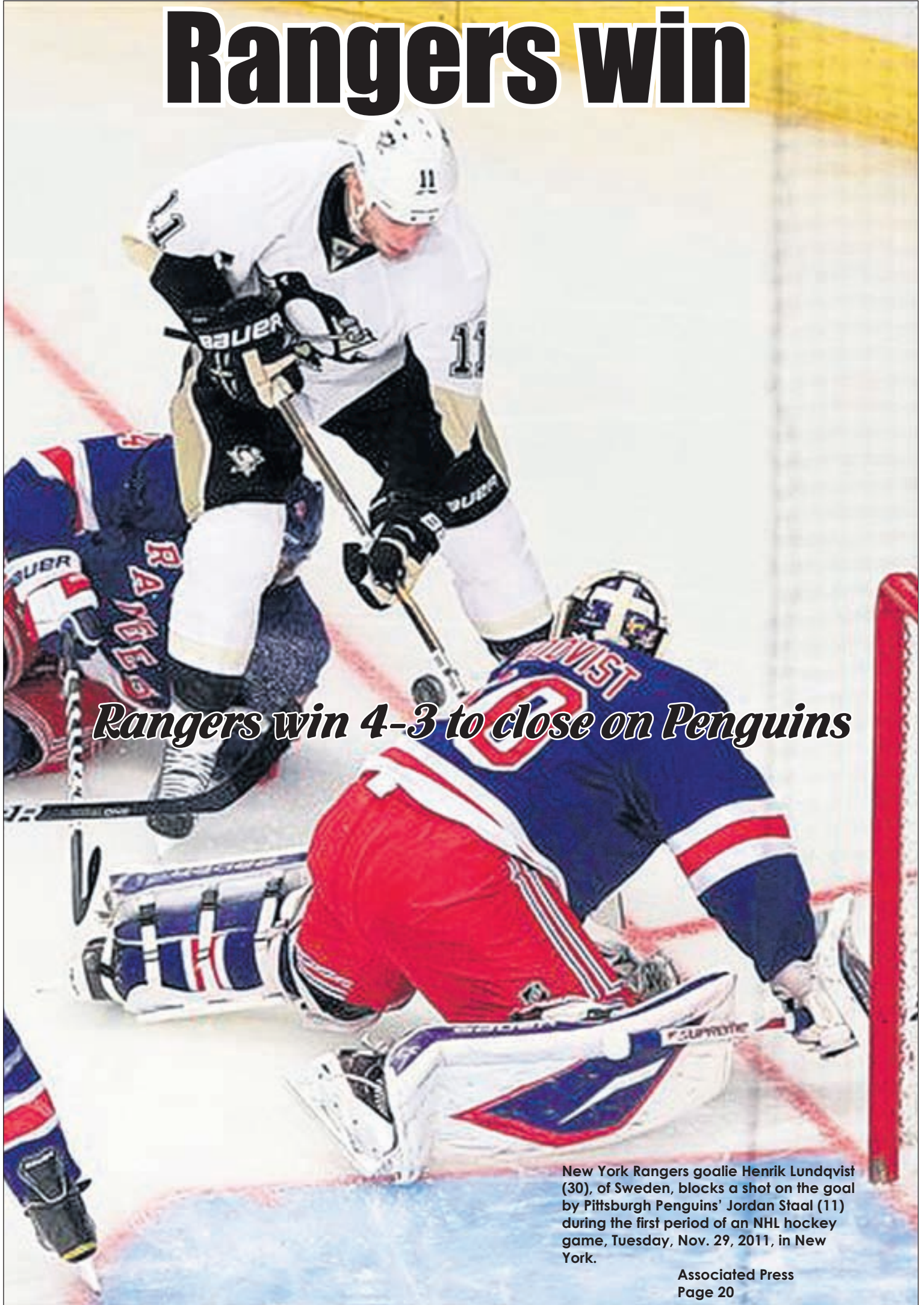
Red Sox, Valentine agree to terms

By JIMMY GOLEN

BOSTON (AP) — Players eating fried chicken and drinking beer in the clubhouse during games. If it didn't bother Bobby Valentine as a baseball lifer, it would certainly offend his sensibilities as a self-proclaimed gourmet chef. "He won't let that happen. There's no way he's going to let that happen," said Tommy Lasorda, Valentine's manager in the minor leagues and a mentor who encouraged him to try for the Red Sox job. "There's times — in all phases of life — when you've got to kick them in the (rear) when they need it, and there's times when you need to hug them if they need it. Your livelihood depends on those guys. You've got to have them in the right frame of mind, to be loyal to the organization, to put forth all the effort that they have." Valentine has agreed to terms with the Red Sox to become the team's new manager, a person familiar with the negotiations told The Associated Press on Wednesday.

Continued Next Page

Rangers win



Rangers win 4-3 to close on Penguins

New York Rangers goalie Henrik Lundqvist (30), of Sweden, blocks a shot on the goal by Pittsburgh Penguins' Jordan Staal (11) during the first period of an NHL hockey game, Tuesday, Nov. 29, 2011, in New York.

Associated Press
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Williams, Mueller top newcomers on Hall ballot

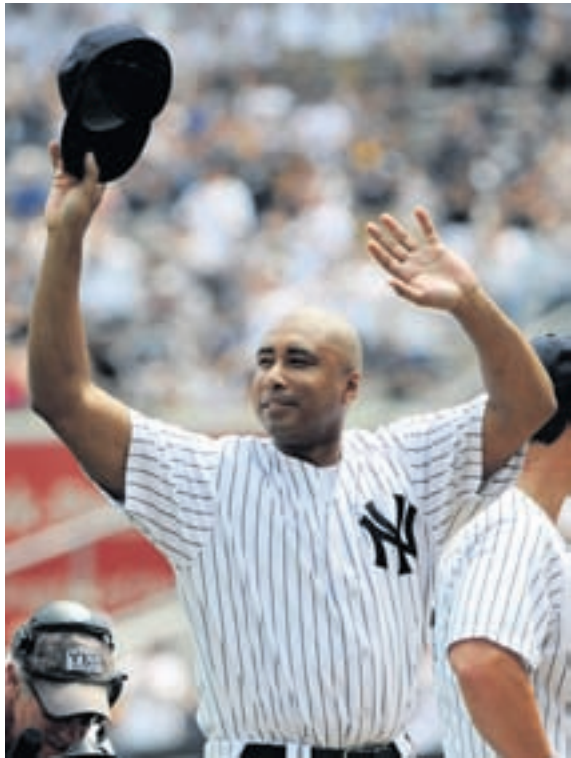
NEW YORK (AP) — Former AL batting champions Bernie Williams and Bill Mueller are among 13 newcomers on baseball's 2012 Hall of Fame ballot, joining top holdovers Barry Larkin, Jack Morris, Lee Smith and Jeff Bagwell.

Following the election of Robert Alomar and Bert Blyleven last year, a relatively weak field of first-timers could give renewed hope to Larkin and Morris. The 2013 ballot that will be sent out late next year figures to be among the most controversial, with seven-time MVP Barry Bonds and seven-time Cy Young Award winner Roger Clemens eligible for the first time along with Craig Biggio, Mike Piazza, Curt Schilling and Sammy Sosa.

Bonds, Clemens and Sosa have been implicated in the use of performance-enhancing drugs, allegations they have denied.

Twenty-seven players are on this year's Baseball Writers' Association of America ballot, including 14 holdovers. A player needs at least 75 percent to gain election, and results will be announced Jan. 9.

A 12-time All-Star and the 1995 NL MVP, Larkin fell 75 votes shy with 62.1 percent last year in his second try,



In this June 26, 2011 file photo, former New York Yankees center fielder Bernie Williams, left, reacts to applause during Old Timers' Day ceremonies, at Yankee Stadium in New York; and in this Oct. 20, 2007 file photo, former Boston Red Sox infielder Bill Mueller, right, throws out the ceremonial first pitch before Game 6 of the American League Championship baseball series between the Red Sox and Cleveland Indians, at Fenway Park in Boston. Former AL batting champions Bernie Williams and Bill Mueller are among 13 newcomers on baseball's 2012 Hall of Fame ballot.



Associated Press

up from 51.6.

Morris, the winningest pitcher of the 1980s but burdened by a 3.90 career ERA, received 53.5 percent on his 12th try, up from 52.3 the previous year and 22.2 percent in his initial appearance. Players are eligible to appear on the writers' ballot for up to 15 years.

Smith, third on the career

saves list with 478, got 45.3 percent last year, down from 47.3 percent. Jeff Bagwell, who hit 449 homers, got 41.7 percent support in his first appearance.

Mark McGwire, 10th on the career home run list with 583, received 19.8 percent of the vote last year in his fifth try on the ballot, down from 23.7 in 2010 — a vote

before he admitted using steroids and human growth hormone.

Rafael Palmeiro, among just four players with 500 homers and 3,000 hits along with Hank Aaron, Willie Mays and Eddie Murray, was on just 11 percent of the ballots last year in his first appearance. He received a 10-day suspension in 2005

for a positive test, claiming it was due to a vitamin vial given to him by teammate Miguel Tejada.

Two-time AL MVP Juan Gonzalez, a two-time AL MVP implicated by Jose Canseco in steroids use, received 30 votes last year, just above the 5 percent threshold for remaining on the ballot.

Among the first-time eligibles, Williams won the AL batting title for the Yankees in 1998 and Mueller for the Red Sox in 2003. Newcomers also include 1993 AL Rookie of the Year Tim Salmon and former RBIs leaders Ruben Sierra and Vinny Castilla.

Two of the biggest stars of the Steroids Era appear on the ballot for the first time a year from now: Bonds, the career leader with 762 home runs, and Clemens, ninth in wins (354) and third in strikeouts (4,672).

Bonds is to be sentenced Dec. 16 following his conviction in April on one count of obstruction of justice for giving an evasive answer in 2003 to a grand jury investigating steroids distribution. Following a mistrial in July, Clemens is scheduled for a trial April 17 on one count of obstruction of Congress, three counts of making false statements to Congress and two counts of perjury. The charges stem from denials of allegations of drug use he made to a congressional committee in 2008 following the publication of the Mitchell Report. While Sosa never failed a drug test with penalties, The New York Times reported he was among the players who tested positive on baseball's 2003 survey test. The complete ballot: Jeff Bagwell, Jeromy Burnitz, Vinny Castilla, Juan Gonzalez, Brian Jordan, Barry Larkin, Javy Lopez, Edgar Martinez, Don Mattingly, Fred McGriff, Mark McGwire, Jack Morris, Bill Mueller, Terry Mulholland, Dale Murphy, Phil Nevin, Rafael Palmeiro, Brad Radke, Tim Raines, Tim Salmon, Ruben Sierra, Lee Smith, Alan Trammell, Larry Walker, Bernie Williams, Tony Womack, Eric Young. □

Valentine

Continued from Page 17

A news conference to introduce Valentine is expected on Thursday, according to the person, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because the deal had not been signed. The former New York Mets and Texas Rangers manager replaces Terry Francona, who left after eight years in which he guided the Red Sox to two World Series titles but also the biggest September collapse in baseball history. Valentine was hired to revive a team that has missed the playoffs two straight years and reverse a culture in which players ate takeout fried chicken and drank beer in the clubhouse during games instead of sit-



ting on the bench with their teammates.

Francona let his players police themselves and never said anything negative about them in public. When he was in New York, Valentine at times criticized his players and bickered

with them, his boss and the media. "You give loyalty, you'll get it back. You give love, you'll get it back," LaSorda said. "And that's the way it has to be."

The Red Sox let Francona go after a 7-20 September left them out of the play-

offs for the second straight season, one game behind AL wild-card winner Tampa Bay. Francona said the clubhouse needed a different voice. And, boy, is Valentine ever different.

A restaurateur who claims to have invented the wrap sandwich; a high school star in football and baseball; a two-time minor-league MVP; the son-in-law of former major leaguer Ralph Branca; the manager of the NL pennant-winning New York Mets and Japanese champion Chiba Lotte Marines; the director of health and public safety in Stamford, Conn.; purveyor of an athletic training facility; a successful TV analyst.

Valentine's resume is long. And it has one major gap: He's never won a World Series. □

AP Source: Suh appeal hearing to be held Thursday

By BARRY WILNER

NEW YORK (AP) — Ndamukong Suh will get his appeals hearing right away.

On Thursday afternoon, Suh will present his appeal of his two-game suspension for stomping Packers guard Evan Dietrich-Smith to Art Shell. The league handed out the suspension Tuesday, but Suh immediately appealed.

Shell is a joint appointee of the NFL and the players' association for such cases.

A person familiar with the process told The Associated Press on Wednesday about the hearing, which will be held by conference call.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the NFL has not announced when the hearing will occur.

Suh stomped on Dietrich-Smith during Detroit's Thanksgiving Day loss to the Packers and was ejected. Should he lose the appeal, he will miss Sunday's game at New Orleans and the Lions' Dec. 11 home game against Minnesota.

Usually, a hearing is held within 10 days of the filing of an appeal. But the league has expedited Suh's high-profile case to give the Lions and the second-year player an answer before the Saints game.

If Suh, the 2010 Defensive Rookie of the

Year and an All-Pro, loses the appeal, he can return to the Lions on Dec. 12 before a road game against Oakland. He is barred from practice and the team's facility while suspended.

Early last month, Suh requested and was granted a meeting with NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell to discuss his play after he drew several penalties and fines. Suh said he had a better understanding of the rules after that meeting.

On Sunday, with it becoming apparent he would be disciplined again, Suh called Goodell to apologize.

Against Green Bay on national TV, Suh lifted up his right knee and forcibly stepped on Dietrich-Smith's right arm during the third quarter of the Lions' 27-15 loss. Before the stomp, Suh shoved Dietrich-Smith's helmet toward the turf while separating himself from the Packers player on the ground.

He was penalized and ejected.

Asked about the incident after the game, Suh sounded defiant, insisting he didn't intentionally step on Dietrich-Smith. A day later, following criticism from the Lions, Suh apologized to his teammates, organization and fans — not to Dietrich-Smith.



In this Nov. 20, 2011 file photo, Detroit Lions defensive tackle Ndamukong Suh (90) sits on the bench during the fourth quarter of an NFL football game against the Carolina Panthers, in Detroit. Suh is suspended for two games by the NFL for stomping on the arm of Green Bay's Evan Dietrich-Smith during a Thanksgiving game.

Associated Press

His actions prompted more criticism around the league, with some calling Suh the NFL's dirtiest player.

Suh can afford any fines — he is making \$40 million guaranteed with a chance to get paid as much as \$68 million in a five-year contract he signed after Detroit drafted him No. 2 overall in 2010. □

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Rangers win 4-3 to close on Penguins

NHL Roundup

NEW YORK (AP) — The New York Rangers scored four goals in the second period then held on to beat Pittsburgh 4-3 on Tuesday, closing to within three points of the Penguins for the leadership of the NHL Eastern Conference.

John Mitchell and Brad Richards scored 90 seconds apart while Ryan Callahan and Marian Gaborik both had a goal and assist in the period as New York won its seventh straight at home and 10th in 12 games overall. Sidney Crosby helped set up James Neal's first-period goal that gave Pittsburgh a 1-0 lead and assisted on Pascal Dupuis' goal that made it 4-3 early in the third.

Crosby has at least one point in four of five games since returning from a concussion that sidelined him since January.

COYOTES 4, BLACKHAWKS 1
In Chicago, Mike Smith made 24 saves as Phoenix recorded a comfortable win over Chicago.

Ray Whitney had a goal and two assists while Raymond Langkow, Shane Doan and Radim Vrbata also scored as the Coyotes improved to 7-3-1 on the road. Smith looked set for back-to-back shutouts until Patrick Sharp scored for Chicago with 42.9 seconds



New York Rangers' Brad Richards, center, celebrates a goal with teammates Dan Girardi (5) and Ruslan Fedotenko (26) as Pittsburgh Penguins' Sidney Crosby (87) skates past them during the second period of an NHL hockey game Tuesday, Nov. 29, 2011, in New York.

Associated Press

left in the game.

BLUES 2, CAPITALS 1

In Washington, Dale Hunter's NHL coaching career began with a thud as the Capitals struggled again in a loss to St. Louis.

T.J. Oshie and Matt D'Agostini scored for the Blues, who won their fourth straight game.

Nicklas Backstrom got the sole goal for the Capitals, whose attack was as ineffective under Hunter as it had been recently under fired coach Bruce Boudreau.

Washington was outshot 30-19 by the stingiest defense in the NHL.

PANTHERS 3, HURRICANES 1

In Raleigh, North Carolina, Shawn Matthias scored with 3:19 left to help Florida spoil Kirk Muller's debut as Carolina coach.

Tomas Fleischmann also scored and Matthias added an empty-netter for the Southeast Division-leading Panthers.

Jeff Skinner scored for last-place Carolina, which lost its fourth straight. Muller took over after Paul

Maurice was dismissed by Carolina on Monday for the second time in a decade.

SENATORS 6, JETS 4

In Winnipeg, Zack Smith and Milan Michalek had two goals apiece to lift Ottawa over Winnipeg.

Smith broke a 4-4 tie with his second score of the night on a power play with 6:15 left.

Jason Spezza had the tying goal in the third period and Nick Foligno added an empty-netter with 1:08 remaining. □

AP Source: NFL fines Bills WR Johnson

By JOHN WAWROW

Buffalo Bills wide receiver Steve Johnson (13) celebrates a touchdown during the ...

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. (AP) — Buffalo Bills receiver Stevie Johnson has been fined \$10,000 by the NFL for mimicking shooting himself in the thigh during a touchdown celebration last weekend that mocked New York Jets receiver Plaxico Burress.

A person familiar with the league's disciplinary action informed The Associated Press of the fine on Wednesday. The person spoke on the condition of anonymity because the league has not made an announcement. Johnson declined to confirm whether he had been punished except to say he had an overnight courier envelope from the NFL waiting for him at his locker when he arrived for practice. Johnson left the envelope unopened because he expected to find inside formal notification of his fine. Johnson said he was done discussing the celebration — and the national criticism he received as a result of it — and is instead focusing on looking forward to helping the Bills (5-6) end a four-game slump on Sunday when they host the Tennessee Titans (6-5). □

With lockout nearing end, basketball back in focus

By BRIAN MAHONEY

NEW YORK (AP) — These are the kinds of negotiations NBA fans have been waiting for.

Teams began talking to agents Wednesday as the lockout inched closer to its end, and basketball moved back into focus. Dwight Howard and Chris Paul were linked to trade speculation, while free agents such as Tyson Chandler and Nene were in the news after months of attorneys getting all the ink.

Now, the players are taking over and the league was set to reopen its facilities for workouts Thursday.

Some may arrive out of

shape, just as was the case in January 1999 after the NBA's only other shortened season. But they're anxious to get back, with a little more than three weeks until they start playing games. "The guys are going to come in and I'm sure they're going to be in good shape. They want to play," new Houston coach Kevin McHale told reporters.

"These guys have played basketball their entire lives. They love to play basketball and they're excited to get after it."

The league still hopes to open training camps and free agency next Friday, leaving both sides scrambling

to get business finished in time.

The lawsuits have been settled, contingent upon the ratification of a new collective bargaining agreement by Dec. 9. Players are in the process of collecting the signatures needed to approve the reformation of the union, which must be done before the sides can resume bargaining on the remaining issues that must be settled before each side can vote.

NBA officials are working to complete a two-game exhibition schedule for each team that will lead to a 66-game regular season, starting with a five-game slate

on Christmas.

Philadelphia 76ers president Rod Thorn was working in the league office during the last lockout and knows how much work it will take to stay on the schedule. Commissioner David Stern revealed after reaching a tentative agreement with the players early last Saturday. "I definitely remember that time and how hectic it was on the NBA side," Thorn said. "If you think it was hectic over here, it was really hectic on that side."

Trying to make the process smoother, the NBA agreed to allow players to re-enter the buildings Thursday. Coaches aren't allowed,

but players can meet with the teams' training personnel and conduct unsupervised workouts. The decision was made in consultation with the union Tuesday, and league spokesman Tim Frank denied it had anything to do with the settlement of the litigation.

"We agreed that it was in everyone's interest that players have the opportunity to get back to work," he said.

The lockout began July 1, which would have been the opening of free agency. It finally arrived in a minimized form Wednesday morning, when teams were allowed to talk to agents. □



Boxer Antonio Margarito, of Mexico is shown during a news conference Wednesday, Nov. 30, 2011 at Madison Square Garden in New York.

Associated Press

Margarito not worried if Cotto aims punches at eye

NEW YORK (AP) — Miguel Cotto and Antonio Margarito didn't know for sure until less than two weeks before their fight that they were on for Madison Square Garden.

Margarito's surgically repaired right eye could be part of the strategy and the outcome Saturday in their 154-pound title bout. The New York State Athletic Commission ordered another examination of his eye before licensing him Nov. 22.

Margarito needed surgery to repair a fractured orbital bone after losing to Manny Pacquiao in November 2010.

"He can punch me in the eye," Margarito said at a news conference Wednesday. "It's not going to do any damage."

Cotto said he didn't think Margarito would fight unless he was healthy.

"We prepare for anything," the Puerto Rican star said. "But if we saw some weakness on Margarito," he and his corner would go after it. Margarito stopped Cotto in the 11th round in a rousing fight in July 2008 to win the WBA welterweight title. Since then, both have been battered by Pacquiao, and Margarito missed more than a year because of a hand-wrapping scandal. □

Woods headed in the right direction

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

THOUSAND OAKS, California (AP) — Tiger Woods

barely qualified for his own tournament at the Chevron World Challenge, an indication that the last two years have been the worst stretch of his career.

His last two weeks of competition allow for a much better outlook.

A trip Down Under gave Woods plenty of indicators that his game might finally be on the rise. He had the 36-hole lead at the Australian Open and finished third, his best result of the year. Then came the Presidents Cup, where he played solidly for five matches at Royal Melbourne and was at his best in the final round of singles.

It wasn't the results, or even the scores, that pleased him. It was his play in blustery conditions — testing conditions in Sydney at The Lakes, even more demanding in Melbourne.

"Anybody who makes swing changes ... you get exposed in the wind," Woods said Wednesday. "I felt very comfortable in that wind, which was great."

He looked back to the early part of this year when he shot 66 in the second round of the Dubai Desert Classic and was right in the thick of the tournament. The wind picked up, and Woods had a 75-72 weekend to tie for 20th.

"I felt I should have won the tournament," Woods said.

"A right-to-left swing cost me eight shots on certain holes, and I didn't have the ability to maneuver the ball left-to-right at the time. So the wind exposed me there, which was good."

"Playing in Oz for two weeks, it was fantastic," he said.

"I hit all shapes, all trajectories, and if you look at the rounds, I hit most of my shots pin-high. That's an indication if the wind's blowing that hard, that I'm really controlling my trajectory well."

He might not be done with the wind just yet.

The forecast is for the famous Santa Ana wind to rip

through Sherwood Country Club at least for the first few days, which figures to make it more difficult than the Australian courses because of the trees and foothills in Conejo Valley that make it hard to gauge just which way it's blowing.

The 18-man field is not quite as strong as it has been in years past because of the crowded global schedule. McDowell chose not to defend his title. He was at the World Cup in China last week, and wraps up his European Tour season in Dubai next week. Instead of a journey around the world, he chose to play in South Africa this week in the Nedbank Challenge.

Only PGA Tour members are at Sherwood this year, though it's a solid cast — 11 of them were at the Presidents Cup, while Gary Woodland returns from China where he and Matt Kuchar gave the United States its first World Cup title in 11 years.

Woods nearly didn't make it into the field. Because the Chevron World Challenge now offers world ranking points, the two exemptions had to be inside the top 50 in the world when qualifying ended in September. That was during the FedEx Cup playoffs — Woods was ineligible for those — and he was No. 49 at the cutoff date.

Now that he's here, it's another chance for him to measure his progress.

Woods will play the first round with Steve Stricker, one of his close friends on tour and regular partner. They played practice rounds at Royal Melbourne and a foursomes match on the first day. Woods suffered his worst loss ever in match play when Adam Scott and K.J. Choi beat them, 7 and 6.

Stricker was still rusty from having not competed in nearly two months, but he liked what he saw from his partner.

"He was hitting it as solid as I've ever seen him hit it," Stricker said during his program round at Sherwood. "He's got his length back — he had it back last year,



Tiger Woods listens to a question during a news conference for the Chevron World Challenge golf tournament at Sherwood Country Club, Wednesday, Nov. 30, 2011, in Thousand Oaks, Calif.

Associated Press

too — but he hit a 2-iron at Melbourne that was going forever. Into the wind, it was going like a 3-wood. He was just really compressing the ball and hitting it on a direct line."

Woods gave Stricker credit for sorting out a flaw in his putting stroke before Woods played his singles match, which he won to provide the cup-clinching point for the Americans.

That might be the final piece of the puzzle — putting and confidence, which often are linked in this game.

Woods didn't make many putts in Australia, though not many players did on the fast, firm greens of Royal Melbourne, especially in those gusts.

"He seems happy," Stricker said. "And he's getting his confidence back. He just needs to see the ball go in the hole a few more times." Woods found time for a little humor Wednesday. He was told about a hockey helmet that Woods suppos-

edly signed years ago and made its way to the Hockey Hall of Fame. A reporter told him it was going for \$5,000 on eBay.

Woods stared at him blankly, and as much as the reporter tried to jog his memory, there was no recollection. He then was asked about his swing.

"I'm swinging the club well enough that you don't need to walk out there with hockey helmets on," Woods said.

As for his expectations, Woods said they have not changed. "Just place the ball in correct spots and get the W," he said. Even so, they would seem to be different than they were at the Frys.com Open the first week in October, when he had not played in seven weeks; or in Australia, after another month off.

He feels he is making progress, and only had to wait a week to show it this time.

"Absolutely I can sense it," Woods said. "I've made tremendous strides." □



Blue-Grey (SAD)

By: Dr Carlos Viana

We are blessed to live in the land of endless sunshine. There's nothing "SAD" about being able to go barefoot and enjoy blue skies every day. This year though, we've had an unusual amount of rain and life on our tiny island can seem, tiny. Phyllis' antidote to "tiny" is to vacation in the big city. New York City, especially during the holidays energizes her. But after a week of nothing but grey skies, Phyllis begins to feel what our friends up north call the winter blue's or Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD). Luckily, even with the rain, it is warm and our sun does shine bright between showers and locals and tourists run for some beach time even in winter. However, for those of you who have had too much cold, snow or rain it can cause more than a passing moment of "sad" feelings.

Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD) is a type of depression that often occurs in winter throughout the Northern and Southern Hemispheres due to lack of light and sunshine. It is rare in people living near the equator, where daylight hours are long. In individuals affected by this disorder, the symptoms usually recur each winter, starting between September and November and continuing until March or April; and although SAD may begin at any age, the typical age of onset is between eighteen and thirty. In addition to symptoms of depression, most sufferers show signs of a weakened immune system during the winter and are more vulnerable to infections and other illnesses, while in spring and autumn they may have extreme mood changes

and short periods of hypomania (overactivity). For some people, SAD produces symptoms severe enough to cause considerable stress and disrupt their lives. SAD symptoms usually disappear automatically in spring or when affected individuals travel to sunnier climates.

A diagnosis of SAD can be made after three or more consecutive winters of symptoms, which include the following:

- Desire to oversleep and difficulty staying awake
- Disturbed sleep
- Feelings of fatigue and inability to handle daily routine
- Craving carbohydrates and sweets
- Feelings of misery, guilt, apathy or loss of feelings
- Irritability
- Reduced self-esteem
- Desire to avoid social contact
- Tension and inability to tolerate stress
- Decreased interest in sex and physical contact

If relocating to a sunnier location is not possible, SAD can be treated in several ways. First, individuals can buy lightbulbs labeled, "full-spectrum". Full-spectrum bulbs are similar to natural daylight because the light is perceived to have the color and brightness of daylight. Daylight is a form of energy that travels in various wavelengths. Daylight, because it includes all wavelengths that are visible to the human eye, is considered full spectrum. When SAD leads to depression, it can be treated with standard antidepressant

drugs, or if these are ineffective, natural relief may be found in 5HTP (hydroxytryptophan), the precursor to serotonin, which plays an important role in regulating mood, sleep, sexuality, appetite, and vomiting. The benefits of 5HTP, which, unlike other antidepressants, affects only the brain, are very similar to those of L-tryptophan, such as aiding sleep, alleviating age-related depression, and minimizing effects of alcohol withdrawal. But 5HTP must not be taken with other serotonin-enhancing drugs, such as L-tryptophan or Prozac, without the guidance of a physician since this may cause severe side effects, including mania, anxiety, and dermatitis.

In addition, depression caused by SAD can be treated with acupuncture. Traditional Chinese medicine, believes that heat, cold, wind, dampness, dryness, and summer heat are six external climatic forces that can invade the human organism and create disharmony in body, mind, and spirit. Acupuncture can help people who suffer from SAD achieve a more balanced state.

The effects of SAD can be prevented or minimized by remaining physically active during the fall and winter months. Try winter outdoor activities such as skating, skiing. Jogging, walking the dog or playing outside with the kids can still be enjoyed in winter, but the right clothing and warming up is essential. Make sure you start earlier to catch the shorter daylight hours for safety and enjoyment. If you can't take the cold, switch



to indoor stretches and exercises such as working out at a gym, yoga, or try salsa lessons. These are excellent ways to maintain a healthy mind and body. Getting enough quality rest and staying connected with friends and family or getting professional help is important for emotional support.

As a clinical nutritionist, I can never say enough about eating healthy and staying hydrated. In the cold you may not sweat and therefore not realize you are dehydrated. However many indoor heating systems are drying, get a home humidifier if necessary. Including immune supporting supplements like vitamin C, Zinc, Cats claw, Reishi, Shiitake and Maitake Mushrooms can make a difference. Add B complex to your program, to support strength and energy and 5HTP for "blue" feelings.

Get the Point. Don't spend another winter being SAD. With a little effort, you can adjust your lifestyle to the seasons. Plan and shop ahead for healthy meals. Stock up on immune system and mood supporting supplements. Schedule time and find

new ways to exercise, with a friend if possible. Invest in full spectrum lightbulbs. Try acupuncture; stay active physically, mentally and emotionally with supportive friends, family and professionals. Of course, a winter getaway to a warm, sunny place could help you turn your grey skies to a brighter shade of blue. If you're visiting our island and would like more information, call us for an appointment.

CARLOS VIANA, Ph. D. is an Oriental Medical Doctor (O.M.D.) having studied in China; a US Board Cert. Clinical Nutritionist (C.C.N.), an Addiction Professional (C.Ad.), Chairperson of the Latin American Committee of the International Academy of Oral Medicine and Toxicology (IAOMT), a Rejuvenating Cell Therapist specializing in Age Management, has a weekly radio program, writes and lectures extensively. For information: VIANA HEALING CENTER, Kibaima 7, St Cruz TEL: 585-1270 Web Site: www.vianaheal.com

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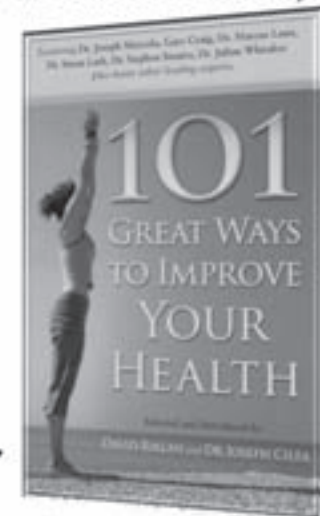


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Twitter, mixi form Japan tie-up as Facebook gains

TOMOKO A. HOSAKA

Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — Twitter Inc. and Japan's biggest home-grown social networking site mixi Inc. joined forces Wednesday to strengthen their ground against a rapidly expanding Facebook. For Twitter, the partnership with a local social network could point to a new strategy as the San Francisco-based microblogging service seeks to accelerate global growth. Japan is the company's second-biggest market after the U.S. and has served as a key international testing ground of sorts.

Japanese was Twitter's first foreign language platform, and it opened its first overseas office in Tokyo earlier this year. In April, the company hired James Kondo in Japan as its first international country manager.

Kondo said he didn't know if Twitter would forge similar partnerships in other countries. But the company is keen to see what happens with the experiment, which launched with a limited Christmas-themed application, he said.

"This is going to be an interesting case," he told The Associated Press. "We're

going to see what works and what doesn't work, and we're going to build on top of that as opposed to throwing out something that may not work."

For mixi, the announcement couldn't have come at a better time.

The seven-year-old Tokyo-based company had been the dominant social networking platform in Japan. Despite its massive popularity elsewhere in the world, Facebook failed to make much of an impact in the country. That is, until this year.

Data released this week from Nielsen NetRatings Japan showed that mixi stood in third place behind Twitter and Facebook in terms of unique visitors in October. More than 14.5 million users visited Twitter, and 11.3 million went to Facebook, according to the Nielsen report.

In contrast, about 8.4 million visited mixi. Google's social networking service was a very distant fourth.

Facebook has surged over the last year in Japan, in part due to the popularity of the hit movie "The Social Network." The Nielsen data indicates that it surpassed mixi midway through the

year. Growing social gaming services GREE and DeNA also pose threats to mixi.

Twitter and mixi said they offer contrasting — and mutually beneficial — services. While Twitter is a public platform with real-time information, mixi is a closed network. Most users limit their networks to a small group of their closest friends.

Mixi hopes that by partnering with Twitter, it can better integrate public information and conversation into its tight-knit communities.

"Mixi rightly had a choice to do it themselves or partner with someone who's good at this," Kondo said. "And we're glad that they thought that Twitter would be a good partner. I think we can provide value that's distinctive."

Kenji Kasahara, mixi's founder and president, said that the two companies started talking after the March earthquake and tsunami. Both services were used extensively as critical information lifelines in the wake of the disaster.

Twitter in particular gained credibility in Japan after the earthquake. New users flocked to the site for real-



Japan country manager for Twitter Inc. James Kondo, left, and mixi Inc. founder and President Kenji Kasahara shakes hands at a joint press conference in Tokyo Wednesday, Nov. 30, 2011.

Associated Press

time information about the nuclear crisis, electricity blackouts and aftershocks. "Had our services been connected during the disaster,

we would have been able to provide much better service for our users," he said at a joint press conference at mixi headquarters. □

Spotify expands into apps to expand music service

NEW YORK (AP) — Online music provider Spotify is adding free apps to its service to broaden its reach and expand what people can do with its vast trove of digital tunes.

Spotify Inc. said Wednesday that it is adding apps from Rolling Stone and Billboard magazines, Internet

radio service Last.fm, and a slew of others. The Swedish company, which launched its service in the U.S. in July, is also letting developers build new Spotify apps, though it will vet each one. At a launch event in New York City, Rolling Stone publisher Jann Wenner called Spotify the "ultimate juke-

box." With the apps, Spotify might be betting that it'll be more than that. That is, a music platform that people keep coming back to so they can share with friends, read reviews or find nearby concerts.

Spotify has 10 million active users, 2.5 million of whom pay for its service. □

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Move by central banks exhilarates Wall Street

DANIEL WAGNER
AP Business Writer

A move by the world's central banks to lower the cost of borrowing exhilarated investors Wednesday, sending the Dow Jones industrial average soaring 490 points and easing fears of a global credit crisis similar to the one that followed the 2008 collapse of Lehman Brothers.

It was the Dow's biggest gain since March 2009 and the seventh-largest of all time.

Large U.S. banks were among the top performers, jumping as much as 11 percent. Markets in Europe surged, too, with Germany's DAX index climbing 5 percent.

"The central banks of the world have resolved that there will not be a liquidity shortage," said David Kotok, chairman and chief investment officer of Cumberland Advisors. "And they have learned their lessons from 2008.

They don't want to take small steps and do anything incrementally, but make a big bold move that is credible."

Wednesday's action by the banks of Europe, the U.S., Britain, Canada, Japan and Switzerland represented an extraordinary coordinated effort.

But amid the market's excitement, many doubts loomed. Some analysts cautioned that the banks did nothing to provide a permanent fix to the problems facing heavily indebted European nations such as Italy and Greece. It only buys time for political lead-

ers. "It is a short-term solution," said Jack Ablin, chief investment officer at Harris Private Bank. "The bottom line on any central bank action is that it papers over the problems, buys time and in some respects takes pressure from politicians. ... If nothing's done in a week,

JPMorgan Chase & Co. jumped 8.4 percent, the most of the 30 Dow components. Morgan Stanley rose 11.1 percent and Citigroup Inc. 8.9 percent. Worries about the financial system — and the reluctance of the European Central Bank to intervene — have caused borrowing



Raul Rodriguez sweeps the floor of the New York Stock Exchange after the closing bell, Wednesday, Nov. 30, 2011. A move by the world's central banks to lower the cost of borrowing exhilarated investors Wednesday, sending the Dow Jones industrial average soaring 490 points and easing fears of a global credit crisis similar to the one that followed the 2008 collapse of Lehman Brothers. It was the Dow's biggest gain since March 2009.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

this market gain will disappear."

Banks stocks soared as fears about an imminent disaster in the European financial system ebbed.

American and European banks are connected by contracts, loans and other financial entanglements, meaning that a European financial crisis would punish U.S. bank stocks.

The brighter outlook that emerged Wednesday relieved some investor concerns.

rates for European nations to skyrocket. Wednesday's decision reduced the rates banks pay to borrow dollars — a move that aims to make loans cheaper so that banks can continue to operate smoothly. European banks rely on dollars to cover loans they have promised to consumers and businesses and pay for investments in U.S. credit markets. They traditionally have tapped short-term funding from U.S. money market mutual funds and other banks. □

Q and A about banks' actions

CHRISTOPHER S. RUGABER
PAUL WISEMAN

AP Economics Writers
WASHINGTON (AP) —

The plan central banks announced Wednesday could ease financial strains that threaten Europe's common currency and could tip the global economy into recession.

The Federal Reserve, the European Central Bank, the Bank of England and the central banks of Canada, Japan and Switzerland said they'd make it easier for banks to get the dollars they need to lend. The move was a powerful confidence-booster, a signal that central banks are prepared to act in concert to encourage lending.

Stocks rocketed in response.

"The coordination was a big thing," said Michael Hanson, an economist at Bank of America Merrill Lynch. "It had a psychological effect."

Still, the plan isn't a permanent fix. It doesn't address the root of Europe's crisis: Debt burdens are overwhelming Spain, Italy and some other nations and spreading fears that they'll default.

A default by one or more governments could topple the entire continent's economy. Skittish banks that hold much of these countries' bonds have been reluctant to lend to each other.

On Tuesday, the finance ministers of the 17 countries that use the euro failed to reach an agreement on resolving the cri-

sis. Their failure raised the stakes for the leaders of the 27 countries in the European Union who will hold their own meeting next week. Investors will be looking to the leaders to show progress toward a longer-term solution.

Analysts say the eurozone nations ultimately must approve closer coordination of their spending policies so fiscal discipline can be imposed on individual countries.

Here are some questions and answers about the move and the European crisis.

Q. What did the Fed and other central banks do Wednesday?

A. They agreed to make it easier for banks to obtain U.S. dollars to fund loans all over the world.

This should lead banks to loosen credit, which had tightened because of Europe's financial crisis.

Many banks lend in dollars because so much trade and investment is denominated in the U.S. currency. The Fed, the ECB and the other central banks agreed to lower the interest rate on dollar loans.

Q. How would this help?

A. The Fed has provided dollars to all five central banks since May 2010. But the interest rates were too high for many banks. The Fed and the other central banks are easing those rates. And the ECB will reduce the collateral banks must provide to get dollar loans. All this should lead more European banks to borrow dollars from the ECB. □

Treasurys drop after central banks take action

NEW YORK (AP) — U.S. government bond prices fell Wednesday after the Federal Reserve and other major central banks took steps to ease the European debt crisis.

The Fed and five other central banks cut the cost of lending dollars to commer-

cial banks by half Wednesday.

The move is aimed at making it easier for European banks to raise money and keep credit flowing to people and businesses. U.S. money market funds have been pulling dollars out of European banks over re-

cent months as the European debt crisis expanded beyond Greece to Italy.

Stock markets in Europe and the U.S. soared on the news, but the reaction from the U.S. bond market was muted in comparison. But borrowing costs remain ex-

remely high for indebted countries such as Italy and Spain.

The price of the benchmark 10-year Treasury note dropped 78.1 cents per \$100 invested. Its yield rose to 2.08 percent from 2 percent late Tuesday.

The yield on the 30-year

Treasury bond rose to 3.06 percent from 2.96 percent Monday. Its price fell \$2.06 per \$100 invested. The yield on the two-year note dipped to 0.26 percent from 0.27 percent.

The three-month T-bill paid a yield of 0.02 percent. Its discount wasn't available. □



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POWER - BALL - PROGRESSIVE

Berkshire paying \$150M for Omaha newspaper company

JOSH FUNK

AP Business Writer

OMAHA, Nebraska (AP)

— Billionaire investor Warren Buffett plans to buy his hometown newspaper company, bypassing his misgivings about the industry with a \$150 million deal that will end one of the industry's last sizeable employee-ownership plans. Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway also agreed to assume \$50 million in debt to acquire the Omaha World-Herald Co., he told the company's flagship newspaper, The Omaha World-Herald. The amount employees will receive for each of their shares, which are not publicly traded, wasn't disclosed.

The purchase might be more sentimental than profitable for the Omaha-based Buffett, but he said in a statement Wednesday the World-Herald "delivers solid profits and is one of the best-run newspapers in America."

"I wouldn't do this if I thought this was doomed to some sort of extinction," Buffett told a morning meeting of World-Herald shareholders, who still must approve the deal at a special meeting Dec. 20. Buffett did not immediately respond to an interview request from The Associated Press, but his comments contrasted with earlier observations about the newspaper industry.



The Omaha World Herald building is seen in downtown Omaha, Neb., Wednesday, Nov. 30, 2011. Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway said Wednesday that it is buying Buffett's hometown newspaper, the Omaha World-Herald Co. and expanding the firm's newspaper holdings despite Buffett's misgivings about the industry. Terms of the deal, which must be approved by the Omaha World-Herald's employee owners and other shareholders, weren't disclosed.

(AP Photo/Nati Harnik)

Berkshire's chairman and chief executive previously indicated he would be unlikely to add to the company's newspaper holdings because of the industry's dwindling returns. Berkshire owns the Buffalo News and it has a sizable investment in the Washington Post Co. Buffett told Berkshire shareholders two years ago that most newspapers face the possibility of unending losses. "They were only essential to advertisers as long as they were essential to the reader, and that is changing," Buffett said.

The World-Herald is certain to be a relatively small part of Berkshire, which generated a \$2.28 billion profit in the third quarter on \$33.7 billion revenue. But Andy Kilpatrick, who wrote "Of Permanent Value: The Story

of Warren Buffett," says the investor doesn't buy companies if he doesn't believe the deal will be profitable.

"I think it's sentimental for him, but he doesn't do anything that doesn't make business sense," Kilpatrick said.

The deal includes daily newspapers the World-Herald owns in Grand Island, York, Kearney, North Platte and Scottsbluff, as well as in Council Bluffs, Iowa. The company also owns World Marketing, which provides direct marketing services in Omaha, Chicago, Atlanta, Dallas and Los Angeles.

The Omaha World-Herald Co. has about 1,600 employees, including about 650 at the flagship newspaper in Omaha. Spokesman Joel Long said The Omaha World-Herald has a daily circulation of 135,282 and a Sunday circulation of 170,381.

Whether the deal is good for the current employee-owners will depend on what they paid for their shares and how long they've owned the stock, but Long said such de-

tails of the ownership plan would not be publicly disclosed.

World-Herald CEO Terry Kroeger said the company's employee-ownership structure was restrictive and had forced the newspaper to repurchase stock from departing employees. "We have repurchased the company about seven times since the employee-ownership plan was put in place," Kroeger said.

Outsell Inc. media analyst Ken Doctor said it's also hard to say whether Buffett is getting a good deal because the company isn't publicly traded, making it difficult to estimate its value. But he said he believes Berkshire is paying a low price for a newspaper company that is probably in better financial shape than many larger newspapers and has its own direct-marketing unit.

Developing strong marketing-services businesses may become a valuable part of the newspaper business model as advertising revenue continues to decline, Doctor said. □

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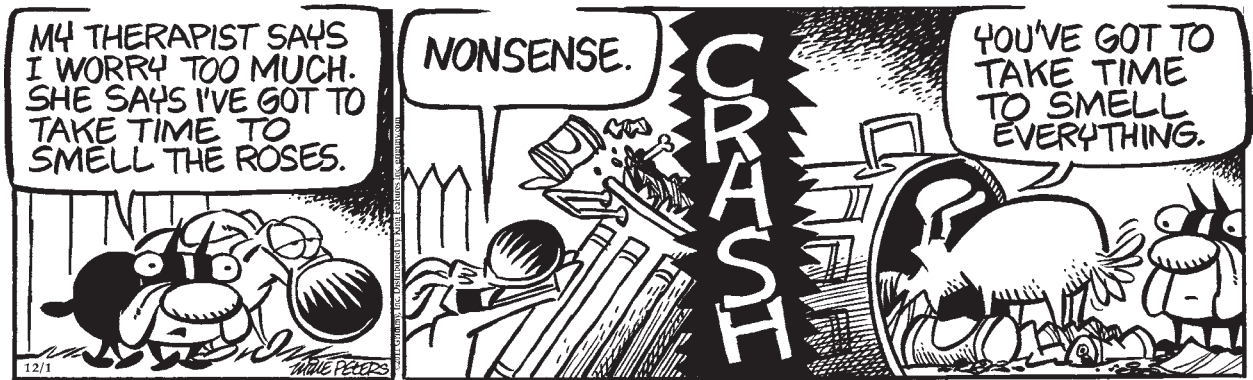
12-1
6 Chix



Blondie



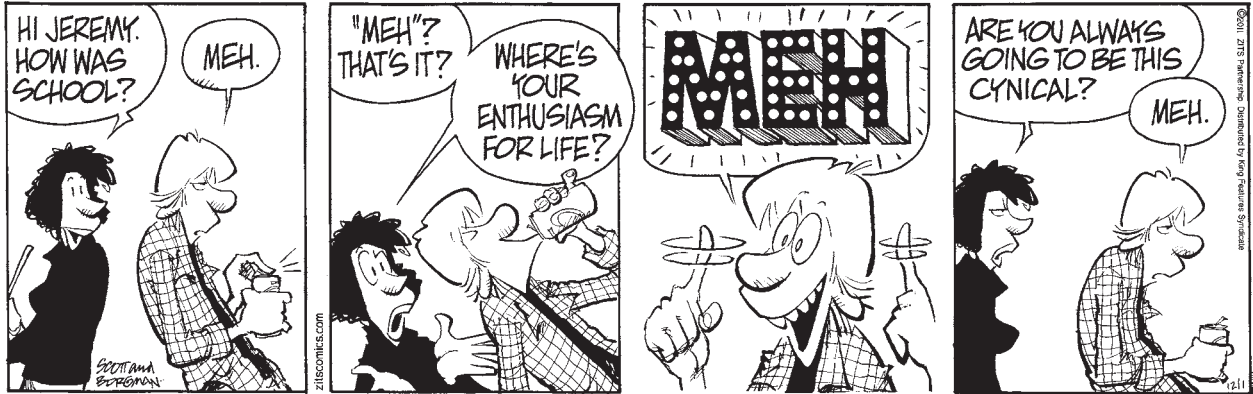
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | 4 | | | 3 |
| | 1 | 3 | | | 6 | | 4 |
| | 8 | 7 | | | 1 | | |
| | | | 2 | | | 1 | 3 |
| 5 | | | | | | | 9 |
| | 6 | 9 | | | 5 | | |
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| | 3 | | 6 | | | 8 | 9 |
| 6 | | | | 2 | | | |

Difficulty Level ★★

12/01

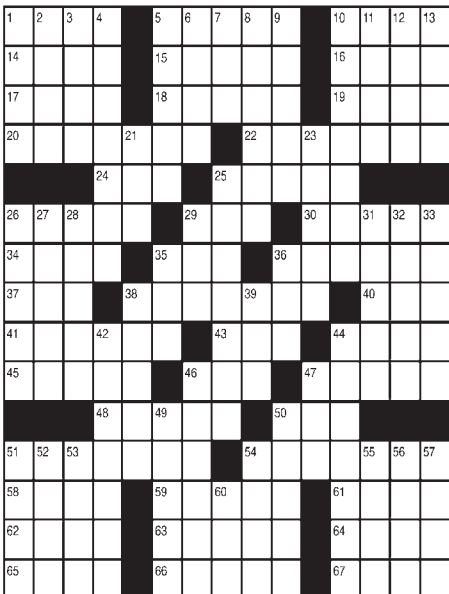
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 9 | 5 | 8 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 7 | 2 | 6 |
| 2 | 7 | 6 | 8 | 9 | 5 | 1 | 3 | 4 |
| 3 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 9 | 8 |
| 5 | 4 | 9 | 6 | 8 | 7 | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| 8 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 9 | 4 | 7 | 5 |
| 7 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 8 | 6 | 9 |
| 6 | 3 | 2 | 7 | 5 | 8 | 9 | 4 | 1 |
| 1 | 9 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 8 | 7 |
| 4 | 8 | 7 | 9 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 2 |

ACROSS

- 1 Plunge into water headfirst
- 5 Huge success
- 10 Incisions
- 14 Large kitchen appliance
- 15 Biblical book
- 16 Deathly pale
- 17 Lion's refuge
- 18 "What I Did on My Summer Vacation," e.g.
- 19 Actress Harlow
- 20 Intertwines
- 22 Tuneful
- 24 Martini ingredient
- 25 Like a twang
- 26 Spirited horse
- 29 Prohibit
- 30 Stop
- 34 Haughtiness
- 35 Hovel
- 36 Neither large nor small
- 37 Tavern
- 38 Nasal passages
- 40 Water barrier
- 41 Constructs
- 43 Home ; four-bagger
- 44 Tax
- 45 "M*A*S*H" role
- 46 Taxi
- 47 Roller coasters and carousels
- 48 Opponent
- 50 Curved bone
- 51 Sagged
- 54 Bureau of Investigation; FBI
- 58 Landlord's collection
- 59 Albert or Fisher
- 61 Italy's capital
- 62 One opposed
- 63 Hilarious folks
- 64 Wedding vows
- 65 -for-nothing; useless
- 66 Perceive
- 67 Invites



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

12/1/11

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| M | O | S | T | R | I | D | E | S | B | L | O | B |
| I | N | C | A | E | M | O | T | E | E | U | R | O |
| S | C | A | T | S | P | E | C | T | A | C | L | E |
| S | E | N | A | I | L | S | P | A | L | S | Y | |
| | | | D | O | G | G | | | H | A | M | |
| H | E | A | V | E | N | | | | T | U | R | E |
| A | X | L | E | S | | S | A | U | L | T | N | E |
| L | I | O | N | | S | L | I | N | K | | F | R |
| F | L | U | | | L | L | A | M | A | | L | E |
| | | | E | S | T | E | E | M | | C | O | R |
| | | | | | H | A | W | | | P | O | I |
| S | H | A | R | K | | S | E | A | N | | U | M |
| P | A | C | E | S | E | T | T | E | R | | B | R |
| A | L | E | S | | L | E | E | R | S | | R | E |
| N | O | S | H | | L | A | P | S | E | | A | S |

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12/1/11

DOWN

- 1 out; allot
- 2 the Terrible
- 3 Mantilla
- 4 Infuriates
- 5 Glossy surface
- 6 Playwright Hart
- 7 Pack animal
- 8 Sailor
- 9 Rutherford or Helen
- 10 Coaxed
- 11 Secondhand
- 12 Bangkok native
- 13 Out of ; not in harmony
- 21 El ; Spanish hero
- 23 Adds liquor to, as punch
- 25 Inborn
- 26 Dueling sword
- 27 Coronet
- 28 Goofed
- 29 Olive Oyl's hairstyle
- 31 Lent a hand to
- 32 Debonair
- 33 TV awards
- 35 and hers
- 36 Fellows

- 38 Disrobe
- 39 Teacher's fill-in, for short
- 42 Neck artery
- 44 African nation
- 46 Gaffer's aide
- 47 of; free from
- 49 Swerves
- 50 Actress Della
- 51 Haul
- 52 City in Nevada
- 53 Aware of the duplicity of
- 54 Connptions
- 55 Curtain holders
- 56 Run ; go wild
- 57 Not as much
- 60 Put on, as garb

Today In History

Highlights in history on this date:

1530 - Margaret of Savoy, Governor of the Netherlands, dies. She ruled the country for her nephew, who later became Holy Roman Emperor Charles V.

1640 - Portugal revolts against Spanish control and becomes independent under John IV.

1813 - Allies agree to invade France after Napoleon Bonaparte's vague replies to peace terms.

1821 - The Dominican Republic declares independence from Spain.

1824 - The presidential election is turned over to the U.S. House of Representatives when a deadlock develops among John Quincy Adams, Andrew Jackson, William H. Crawford and Henry Clay. Adams is declared the winner.

1887 - Portugal secures the secession of Macao from China.

1913 - The first U.S. drive-in automobile service station opens in Pittsburgh.

1918 - Croatia becomes part of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes — later Yugoslavia. Transylvania, formerly under Hungarian rule, unites with Romania; Iceland becomes a separate state under the Danish crown.

1925 - Through the Locarno Treaties Belgium, Britain, Italy, Germany and France agree to a mutual peace in Europe.

1934 - Sergei Kirov, a trusted aide of Soviet leader Joseph Stalin but also a possible rival, is assassinated, prompting Stalin to purge the Communist Party.

1935 - Chiang Kai-Shek is elected president of Kuomintang, China's ruling party.

1948 - Arab conference at Jericho proclaims Abdullah of Transjordan King of Palestine.

1954 - United States signs mutual security pact with Nationalist China — now Taiwan.

1955 - Rosa Parks, a black seamstress, defies the law by refusing to give up her seat to a white man



Today is Woody Allen's birthday

aboard a Montgomery, Alabama city bus. She is arrested, sparking a yearlong boycott of buses by blacks. 1959 - Representatives of 12 countries, including the United States, sign a treaty in Washington setting aside Antarctica as a scientific preserve, free from military activity.

1962 - India rejects Chinese proposals for cease-fire and negotiations over disputed border territory.

1965 - An airlift of refugees

from Cuba to the United States begins. Thousands of Cubans are allowed to leave their homeland.

1971 - The "Croatian Spring," a movement for more independence within Yugoslavia, is crushed.

1978 - U.S. President Jimmy Carter places more than 56 million acres (22.4 million hectares) of Alaska's federal lands into the national parks system.

1981 - A chartered Yugoslav DC-9 jetliner slams into a Corsican mountain as it approaches Ajaccio Airport, killing all 174 people aboard.

1988 - Benazir Bhutto is named Pakistan's prime minister, becoming the first woman to lead a modern-day Muslim nation.

1990 - Chad's President Hissene Habre flees the country after Libyan-armed guerrillas march into the capital; British and French workers digging the Channel Tunnel between their countries finally meet after knocking out a passage in a service tunnel. □

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SETH BORENSTEIN

WASHINGTON (AP) — Massive amounts of greenhouse gases trapped below thawing permafrost will likely seep into the air over the next several decades, accelerating and amplifying global warming, scientists warn.

Associated Press

In a recent video, University of Alaska Fairbanks professor Katey Walter Anthony, a study co-author, is shown setting leaking methane gas on fire with flames shooting far above her head. □

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Krasinski, Hunt, Common among in-crowd at Sundance

By DAVID GERMAIN

LOS ANGELES (AP) — John Krasinski, Helen Hunt, Michael Cera, Amanda Seyfried, Danny Glover and rap star Common are among the stars with movies heading to the Sundance Film Festival.

Films announced Wednesday that will compete for prizes at next month's independent-film showcase include dramas dealing with family crises, such as director Ry Russo-Young's "Nobody Walks," with "The Office" co-star Krasinski and Olivia Thirlby; "The End of Love," starring Cera, Seyfried, Shannyn Sossamon and writer-director Mark Webber; and Sheldon Candis' "Luv," featuring Glover and Common. Hunt stars with John Hawkes and William H. Macy in Ben Lewin's "The Surrogate," an unusual story about a 36-year-old man who has spent most of his life on an iron lung and now develops a plan to lose his virginity.

They're among 16 films in Sundance's competition for U.S. dramas, whose past winners included eventual



In this image released by Sundance Film Festival, Helen Hunt, left, and John Hawkes are shown in a scene from "The Surrogate." The film will be competing at the 2012 Sundance Film Festival.

Associated Press

Academy Awards nominees "Winter's Bone," "Precious" and "Frozen River." Sundance also announced 16 films competing in each of three other categories: U.S. documentaries, world dramas and world documentaries.

The festival runs Jan. 19-29 in Park City, Utah.

Festival director John Cooper said the lineup had gone a bit mainstream and populist some years but that the roster this time

has veered squarely back toward the edgy terrain for which lower-budgeted indie films are known. That could have something to do with the uncertain state of the economy, he said.

"I like the eclectic nature of the storytelling," Cooper said.

"Filmmakers, for some reason or other, they're not conforming to Hollywood stereotypes, not that independent filmmakers ever did. But I think even less

than they did a couple of years ago. They're being bolder, taking risks, telling the stories they want to tell. "In challenging economic times, artists maybe tend to get a little freer in what they do, and sometimes, maybe even a little better."

The U.S. dramatic competition also includes directors Youssef Delara and Michael D. Olmos' "Filly Brown," a hip-hop saga with Lou Diamond Phillips, Edward James Olmos and relative

newcomer Gina Rodriguez in the title role; James Pon-soldt's "Smashed," a story of a booze-loving couple featuring Mary Elizabeth Winstead, Aaron Paul and "The Help" star Octavia Spencer; and So Yong Kim's "For Ellen," starring Paul Dano, Jena Malone and Jon Heder, whose career was launched at Sundance with his title role in "Napoleon Dynamite."

Overseen by Robert Redford's Sundance Institute, the festival will include 110 feature-length films, chosen out of 4,000 submitted from around the world. The festival announces its lineup of star-studded premieres, which will screen out of competition, next week. Though Hollywood A-listers at Sundance get most of the attention, Redford tries to keep the focus on fresh talent from the indie world.

"We are, and always have been, a festival about the filmmakers," Redford said. "So what are they doing? What are they saying? They are making statements about the changing world we are living in. □

Mindy McCready, son reported missing in Florida

CAPE CORAL, Florida (AP)

— Florida authorities say country singer Mindy McCready is missing with her 5-year-old son, and a judge has given her until Thursday to return the boy.

The state Department of Children and Families says a missing persons report was filed with Cape Coral police Tuesday night after McCready took her son Zander from her father's home.

McCready doesn't have custody of her son — her mother does — and the singer was allowed to visit the boy at her father's home, according to a department spokesman. On Tuesday, DCF discovered that McCready and the boy were not at her father's home.

DCF spokesman Terry Field

told The Associated Press the agency asked a Lee County judge for an emergency pickup order, and the judge ruled McCready must return the boy voluntarily by Thursday afternoon or risk an arrest warrant.

Cape Coral Police Lt. Tony Sizemore said that so far, there's "no criminal act."

"There's a lot more questions than answers at this point," he said.

Cape Coral is on Florida's Gulf coast, about 120 miles northwest of Miami.

The singer's brother, Josh McCready, told The Associated Press in a private Facebook message that his sister was "fine."

"Mindy is fine and so is Zander. There is nothing to worry about," he wrote.

Since topping the country charts in the mid-1990s

with her music, the troubled 36-year-old singer's life has been filled with domestic abuse, drug and drunk driving arrests and a suicide attempt. In August, she filed a libel suit in Palm Beach County against her own mother and the National Enquirer's parent company, American Media Inc., over a story published in the tabloid newspaper that quoted her mother.

In 2010, she spoke with The Associated Press about her life.

"It is a giant whirlwind of chaos all the time," she said. "I call my life a beautiful mess and organized chaos. It's just always been like that. My entire life, things have been attracted to me and vice versa that turn into chaotic nightmares or I create the chaos myself. I



In this undated file photo, country singer Mindy McCready performs in Nashville, Tenn. A missing persons report has been filed for McCready and her 5-year-old son Zander.

Associated Press

think that's really the life of a celebrity, of a big, huge, giant personality."

In July 2007, she was accused of scuffling with her mother and resisting arrest at her mother's home in Florida. She was sentenced to jail for 60 days for a probation violation and released; she served 30 days in jail. She also lost custody of her son.

And in 2008, McCready was admitted to a Nashville hospital after police said she cut her wrists and took several pills in a suicide attempt.

During the TV show "Celebrity Rehab 3" in 2010 McCready came off as a sympathetic figure, and host Dr. Drew Pinsky called her an angel in the season finale. □

CMT honors 5 top country stars; Hank Jr. pulls out

CHRIS TALBOTT

AP Entertainment Writer

NASHVILLE, Tennessee (AP)

— Brad Paisley fully endorses the format of the CMT Artists of the Year celebration.

Paisley was one of five country music stars honored Tuesday night during a taping of the second annual event, joining Jason Aldean, Kenny Chesney, Lady Antebellum and Taylor Swift. He loved the idea of already knowing he was taking a trophy home when he showed up.

"It's great," Paisley said in an interview before the event, which will air Dec. 13. "It's neat. It's not like an awards show where you have to wonder if you're going to win. And if you don't, they were mean. They psyched you out. And it's one where they feed everybody and give you alcohol. We need more of those shows."

It was a night full of cross-



pollinated moments, with host Rob Lowe, Lionel Richie, William Shatner, Joe Walsh, Gavin DeGraw, New Orleans Saints coach Sean Payton, former St. Louis Cardinals manager Tony La Russa, The Avett Brothers and The All-American Rejects on hand to celebrate country's biggest entertainers.

But it was Hank Williams Jr. who turned in the night's most buzzed about moment, leaving the stage

quickly mid-song after singing his part during a duet with Aldean.

Williams' spokesman Kirt Webster said after the taping that Williams left because he didn't feel like he was giving an adequate performance while joining Aldean on his song, "Tattoos on This Town." Williams told the show's producers the night was meant to honor Aldean, a friend. Turning in a poor performance would only ruin that effort, Webster recounted. Aldean did a second run-through of the song after Williams left without problem. The singer praised Williams as a hero in an interview before the show and said it had been fun hanging with him during rehearsal.

"It was really kind of funny watching him go about music the way he does," Aldean said. "He's kind of like, 'OK, this is the way y'all do it.'"

Bono: Alicia Keys has 'lioness energy'

MESFIN FEKADU

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Bono is afraid of Alicia Keys.

While Keys talked about being pregnant and empathetic when filming her documentary about AIDS in Africa, the U2 singer chimed in and said: "She's scary, isn't she? She's scary."

Bono went on to say that Keys has "lioness energy" and that her role as a new mother won't allow her to "let other mothers suffer."

He made the comments at the premiere of "Keep a Child Alive with Alicia Keys," a documentary which followed a visit to South Africa during last year's World Cup with a pregnant Keys and five Americans. It airs on the cable television Showtime channel on Dec. 1, which is World AIDS Day. Bono said he met Keys when they recorded a cover of Marvin Gaye's "What's Going On" — with dozens of other musicians — in 2001.

"I was terrified the moment

I met her. I was shaking in my boots," he said. "I was very moved by her singing of course, but what was interesting was the hard questions afterwards, and I think it's those hard questions that she asks that lead her."

Keys started her charity, Keep a Child Alive, in 2003. It assists those affected by HIV/AIDS in Africa and India.

She says she hopes the film reaches out to those who want to help, but can't make it to Africa.

"Even if you never have been able to travel there, or if you never can, that doesn't mean you can't travel with us and really see it for yourself," she said.

Bono says Keys has what it takes to make a difference in Africa, and around the world.

"Everyone's got heart, but actually you have to have the head for this," he said. "You have to be tough and strategic, you have to be demanding, (and) the money has to be spent



Bono, left, and Alicia Keys attend the premiere of the Showtime documentary "Keep a Child Alive with Alicia Keys", in New York, Tuesday, Nov. 29, 2011.

Associated Press

well." If the money isn't spent well, he said, people get annoyed, "and so all these things take a certain intellectual rigor."

Keys has composed music for the Broadway play "Stick Fly," which debuts next week. When Bono — who along with the Edge wrote the music for "Spider-Man: Turn off the Dark" — was asked what advice he could give Keys, he said: "You know, it's an amazing American tradition, Broadway, and she can do anything she wants." □



Tyler Perry Writes Open Letter to Alleged Penn St. Victim Good Morning America

Tyler Perry offers support to boy in abuse case

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Filmmaker Tyler Perry is expressing his support for an alleged victim in the child sex abuse case that has shocked the U.S. sports world, calling him a hero for coming forward.

The producer and director, who went public last year with his own story of childhood molestation, made his comments in an open letter published Monday by Newsweek magazine.

It is addressed to a boy who

was 11 when he reported alleged sexual abuse by former Penn State assistant football coach Jerry Sandusky.

Authorities arrested Sandusky on Nov. 5 and charged him with molesting eight boys over 15 years. Sandusky says he is innocent.

"Do you know that at the young age of 11 you had more courage than all the adults who let you down?" Perrywrote. □

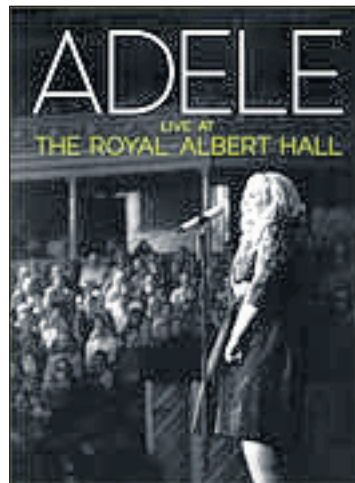
Review: Adele is full of high notes, and jokes

MESFIN FEKADU

Associated Press

Adele, "Live at the Royal Albert Hall" (Columbia Records)

You won't hear Adele's hu-



In this CD/DVD set cover image released by Columbia Records, Adele's "Live at The Royal Albert Hall," is shown.

Associated Press

morous side on her masterful albums, but you'll surely get a glimpse of it at one of her live shows.

In addition to beautifully belting emotional tunes

like "Someone Like You" and "Set Fire to the Rain," Adele's new DVD also showcases the singer telling jokes, pleasing the crowd like a grade-A comedian.

In her signature black ensemble, she debuts her blonde hairdo, saying: "I was hoping to be treated a little differently, but so far not yet." And then someone screams.

"Oh. Thank you very much. Hello. Call me?" she says, laughing with the audience.

"Live at the Royal Albert Hall," the British singer's live DVD and CD, was taped on Sept. 22. Adele, who recently had throat surgery, had a respiratory infection at the time. Though her voice sounds strained during some tracks, she's still epic throughout the 17-song set. She's best — and funniest — during "Take It All," the first song she recorded for her best-selling album "21," when her relationship was in trouble. □

My man newt



MAUREEN DOWD

© 2011 New York Times

WASHINGTON – In many ways, Newt is the perfect man.

He knows how to buy good jewelry. He puts his wife ahead of his campaign. He's so in touch with his feelings that he would rather close the entire federal government than keep his emotions bottled up. He's confident enough to include a steamy sex scene in a novel. He understands that Paul Revere was warning about the British.

Mitt Romney is a phony with gobs of hair gel. Newt Gingrich is a phony with gobs of historical grandiosity. The 68-year-old has compared himself to Charles de Gaulle. He has noted nonchalantly: "People like me are what stand between us and Auschwitz." As speaker, he liked to tell reporters he was a World Historical Transformational Figure. What does it say about the cuckoo GOP primary that Gingrich is the hot new thing? Still, his moment is now. And therein lies the rub. As one commentator astutely noted, Gingrich is a historian and a futurist who can't seem to handle the present. He has more exploding cigars in his pocket than the president with whom he had the volatile bromance: Bill Clinton. But next to Romney, Gingrich seems authentic. Next to Herman Cain, Gingrich seems faithful. Next to Jon Huntsman, Gingrich seems conservative. Next to Michele Bachmann and Rick Perry, Gingrich actually does look like an intellectual. Unlike the governor of Texas, he surely knows the voting age. To paraphrase Raymond Chandler, if brains were elastic, Perry wouldn't have enough to make suspenders for a parakeet. In presidential campaigns, it's all relative. Franker than ever as he announced plans to retire from Congress, Barney Frank told Abby Goodnough in *The Times* that Gingrich was "the single biggest factor" in destroying a Washington culture where the two parties respected each other's differing views yet still worked together.

Newt is the progenitor of the modern politics of personal destruction. "He got to Congress in '78 and said, 'We the Republicans are not going to be able to take over unless we demonize the Democrats,'" Frank said. In the fiction he writes with William R. Forstchen, Gingrich specializes in alternative histories. What if

America hadn't gone to war with Germany in World War II? What if Gen. Robert E. Lee had won Gettysburg? The Republican also weaves an alternative history of his own life, where he is saving civilization rather than ripping up the fabric of Congress, where he improves the moral climate of America rather than pollutes it. Romney is a mundane opportunist who reverses himself on core issues. Gingrich is a megalomaniacal opportunist who brazenly indulges in the same sins that he rails about to tear down political rivals. Republicans have a far greater talent for hypocrisy than easily cowed Democrats do – and no doubt appreciate that in a leader. Gingrich led the putsch against Democratic Speaker Jim Wright in 1988, bludgeoning him for an ethically sketchy book deal. The following year, as he moved into the House Republican leadership, he himself got in trouble for an ethically sketchy book deal.

Gingrich was part of the House Republican mob trying to impeach Bill Clinton for hiding his affair with a young government staffer, even as Newt himself was hiding his affair with a young government staffer. Gingrich has excoriated Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae for dragging the country into a financial spiral and now demands that Freddie Mac be broken up. But it turns out that he was on contract with Freddie for six years and paid \$1.6 million to \$1.8 million (yacht trips and Tiffany's bling for everyone!) to help the company strategize about how to soften up critical conservatives and stay alive. At a Republican debate in New Hampshire last month before this lucrative deal became public, Gingrich suggested that Barney Frank and Chris Dodd should be put in jail. "All I'm saying is, everybody in the media who wants to go after the business community ought to start by going after the politicians who were at the heart of the sickness that is weakening this country," he said. Another transcendent moment in Gingrich hypocrisy. He risibly rationalized his deal, saying he was giving the mortgage company advice as a prestigious historian rather than a hired gun. Gingrich boasts that he's full of fresh ideas, but it always seems to essentially be the same old one: Let's turn the clock back to the '50s. Just as Newt, who dodged service in Vietnam, once cast the Clintons as hippie "McGovernicks," now he limns the Occupy Wall Street protesters as hippies who need to take a bath and get a job. Maybe the ideal man to fix Washington's dysfunction is the one who made it dysfunctional. He broke it so he should own it. And Newt has the best reason to long for the presidency: He'd never be banished to the back of Air Force One again. □



Germany cuts off its nose



JOE NOCERA

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"Lords of Finance," Liaquat Ahamed's magisterial 2009 history of the events that led first to the Great Depression and then to World War II, is, necessarily, a book about policy mistakes. Central bankers and Treasury secretaries, presidents and prime ministers: all of them are locked into their own economic and political orthodoxies. Each is certain that his is the only sensible course of action. Crippled by their blinders, they consistently make economic choices that appear to us, nearly a century later, to be insane but to them seemed completely sensible. Perhaps the worst of the policy errors during the post-World War I period was the insistence of the Allies that Germany pay war reparations – reparations that went far beyond anything that the defeated Germans could afford. As the victors, the Allies felt that it was only fair for Germany to pay for the terrible war it had waged, and they didn't much care about whether such payments would cripple the German economy. Which, of course, they did; by the early 1930s, the country was effectively bankrupt. And the Allies' unrelenting demand for reparations bred immense resentment among the German people. There is not much doubt that this combination of public anger and economic distress helped facilitate the rise of Adolf Hitler. Today, it is Germany that

is making policy moves that seem insane. Locked into their modern-day orthodoxies, German politicians look at Greece with something akin to contempt. Aid to Greece – aid that is given grudgingly, when it is given at all – must be accompanied by severe austerity measures, the Germans believe, because the Greeks need to learn how to live within their means, the way Germans do. For months, Germany has strongly supported the European Central Bank's unwillingness to do the one thing that might have stemmed the euro crisis: buy and guarantee large amounts of distressed sovereign debt. When I asked Martin Wolf, *The Financial Times* columnist whose crisis coverage has been indispensable, why the ECB was reluctant to act, he theorized that it "accepts the German view that monetizing government debt is inherently immoral." As a result, though, what should have been a small crisis centering on Greek debt has turned into a full-fledged European contagion. Can't the Germans see, one wonders from afar, that their economy was the great beneficiary of the bubble economy that caused Greece – and the other peripheral eurozone countries – to get in over their heads, because they were buying German exports? Don't they understand that their banks should share the blame for lending to countries that couldn't repay the debts? Don't they realize that the collapse of the eurozone – unthinkable a year ago; perhaps inevitable now – will hurt Germany much more than Greece? Other currencies will be devalued against Germany's, making German exports more expensive. And German banks – woefully undercapitalized and stuffed with sovereign debt – will face a major solvency crisis when other

sovereigns devalue or default. You would think that all of this would be obvious to the Germans. But it is not. Germany can't get past the fact that it is being asked to bail out "club med" countries where no one pays taxes and everyone retires at the age of 50. From the German perspective, it doesn't seem fair. And that overwhelms even the most powerful economic arguments that bailing out Greece and the other distressed countries also helps Germany. The Germans, of course, are hardly alone in allowing their sense of righteousness to get in the way of sensible policy. Earlier this month, I wrote a column advocating principal reduction as a way of stemming foreclosures. My view is that housing, historically, has led most recoveries and that the foreclosure crisis is one of the things preventing the economy from truly reviving. They cause more homeowners to suddenly find themselves "underwater." They hurt not just those losing their homes, but everybody. My argument is rooted not in morality, but in economics. Yet the response I got from that column was, for the most part, fiercely negative. Why should people who took out loans they couldn't afford get bailed out – while those who lived within their means get nothing? What about moral hazard? One reader wrote: "We should reward people who took large loans or refinanced their homes to go on vacations? Sorry, but correct ethical choices are more important." In other words, it didn't seem fair. Such a view is understandable – in America and in Germany. But if we – and they – can't stop obsessing about what is fair, we're never going to get out of our current messes. The only thing that should matter is what works. Even if it means bailing out club med nations or underwater homeowners. □

Jeremy Scott, fashion's last rebel

WILLIAM VAN METER

© 2011 New York Times

A man on roller skates with Vulcan eyebrows, drag queens, club weirdoes and fashion cognoscenti gathered at Jeremy Scott's September fashion show, a hair-metal-meets-hillbilly reverie. First Scott conjured a promiscuous denim world. One model wore fringed cut-offs so tight Daisy Duke would be appalled.

Then a cowboy element appeared. A male model in green leather chaps and a jockstrap garnered an ovation. (It was unclear whether the cheering was directed at the outfit or how amply the young man filled it out.) At the end of the show, Scott didn't just peek out from backstage to wave but stormed the length of the runway, the designer as grand finale.



Jeremy Scott, center, backstage with models from the 2012 Fashion Week in New York. Scott is the sole owner of his namesake label, and through his successful collaborations with Swatch and Longchamp, he has achieved a mass market success.

(Hiroko Masuike/The New York Times)

Merry Christmas!



Victoria's Secret Angels, from left, Lindsay Ellingson, Chanel Iman, Adriana Lima, and Alessandra Ambrosio pose at a holiday promotion at Victoria's Secret Herald Square in New York. (AP Photo/StarPix, Marion Curtis)

"If I don't walk all the way around, the photographers won't get a picture!" he said a few days later, sitting outside an East Village juice bar. "I don't like to be on display." Scott, who once closed a show reclining on a cloud sculpture and hurling fake money with his face printed on it, added in his Missouri salt-of-the-earth accent, "as much as I might have a look."

The look that day was rife with Batman influences. He wore a hockey jersey customized with a hand-stitched image of the Caped Crusader appropriated from a pillowcase. Scrawled in marker on the bill of his '80s Batman painter's cap were the words "Best bat wishes to a real life superhero."

Scott, now 37, came of age in the "anti-fashion" era, roughly 1997 to 2001. Among the pack were Imitation of Christ, Miguel Adrover, Susan Cianciolo, Pierrot, Katayone Adeli — designers doing whatever they wanted, commerciality be damned. Career paths, licensing and perfumes were not on the radar. In the war of attrition that followed, Scott turned out to be the one who survived. He is the last rebel

standing.

"A lot of designers are scared and try to please their audience," said the pop star Katy Perry, a Scott devotee. "Jeremy designs to please himself."

Scott is the sole owner of his namesake label. Through his successful collaborations with Swatch and Longchamp, he has achieved a mass market without forsaking his outre design sense. (The watches and bags tend to sell out within the first week.) His Adidas line is a particularly demented hit: The sneakers, adorned with stuffed teddy bears and tiger-striped tracksuits, are a hip-hop take on "Where the Wild Things Are." Next fall he plans to open his first boutique, in Los Angeles. On Wednesday, a pop-up shop opened at Art Basel Miami Beach.

"Unlike a lot of designers, Jeremy stays on point for his collaborations," said Marc Beckman, a founder of the Designers Management Agency, which brokers many such collaborations. "Look at the wings he puts on the Adidas shoes. They match almost identically what he's doing with Swatch. The commonality of themes helps with his

own brand-building." (Neither Scott nor the companies he works with would divulge sales figures.)

As much as he might act (and look) the part of prankster and punk provocateur, Scott has been ambitious from a remarkably young age. At 14, he began studying French and took night courses. This was a means to an end. Paris was the fashion capital of the world, after all. "I was obsessed with fashion," he said. "I was always sketching outfits or rehabilitating thrift-store clothes."

In 1992, he moved to New York to study at Pratt Institute. "It was a rigorous education in tailoring, drawing and patternmaking," he recalled. "If it wasn't made right, they'd rip it in front of you and tell you to make it again. You only want that to happen once." Scott lived in the dorm and devoted a lot of time to his own wardrobe.

I met him during that period, in 1995. Friends were coming to pick me up at my NYU dorm and said they were bringing their friend Jeremy from Pratt. Alternative and rave nation were de rigueur downtown, but Jeremy was downright scary. □